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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel, Palestinians Disagree on Jerusalem Issue

TA0809194294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] In Paris today, at the meeting of the countries that are to donate funds for the Palestinian Authority, the Palestinians presented a document containing plans they would like to be financed which includes projects in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports that a dispute surfaced between the Israeli and the Palestinian representatives over the plans for Jerusalem, and the opening session of the conference has been put off until tomorrow. The Norwegian representative who chairs the conference announced that the Palestinian offers regarding Jerusalem are outside the scope of the attending countries' authorities.

Uri Savir, head of the Israeli delegation, made it clear that Israel does not oppose the funding of Palestinian projects in Jerusalem, but these funds cannot come from the donor countries.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Arabia, UAE Differ Over Anti-Sanaa Camps

NC0809173594 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 3

[From the "Eyes" section]

[Text] A disagreement has emerged between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Saudi Arabia. The former has agreed to host [ousted southern leader] 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his group, but has refused to allow camps to train or house armed groups that work against Yemen.

Saudi Arabia, however, plans to set up anti-Sanaa camps in Qizan and Najran on the borders with Yemen.

League Chief Supports Palestinians Over Jerusalem

NC0809183494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Abu Qir, 8 Sep (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has reiterated that the countdown on Arab disputes has begun and that Arab reconciliation will soon be achieved.

During a news conference held at the permanent headquarters of the Arab Academy for Maritime Transportation in Abu Qir in Alexandria this afternoon, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Iraq's representative has conveyed his government's desire to achieve reconciliation. The Iraqi representative requested Arab support at the UN Security Council to lift the embargo imposed on his country, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added.

During the news conference, the Arab League secretary general said that the Iraqi official stressed that his country pledges to implement the Security Council conditions. The Iraqi official, however, did not submit an official request to the Arab League on this matter, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added. He said that Kuwait demands that the reconciliation be attained under the Security Council auspices.

Continuing his remarks, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Iraq's implementation of the Security Council resolutions represents the minimum required to solve the problem. He said that the Arab League cooperates with the United Nations and that there is no dispute between the Arab League and the Security Council. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid asked how an Arab-Israeli peace could be attained while there is no Arab reconciliation?

Regarding the Jordanian-Palestinian dispute over the custodianship of the holy places in Jerusalem, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Israel has no legal right to grant Jordan custodianship of the holy places. He stressed that the sovereignty over Jerusalem is the right of the Palestinian National Authority.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Session Continues in Islamabad

Resolutions Drafted

BK0809164494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The drafting committee of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers conference has recommended an action-oriented resolution providing for establishment of a contact group on Kashmir and calling on member countries to extend humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people. The resolution calls for a peaceful settlement of the dispute in accordance with UN resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simla Agreement. It calls for respect for human rights and the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris and condemned massive violations of human rights in occupied Kashmir. The resolution has asked India to allow human rights groups to visit occupied Kashmir. The resolution also urges India to respond positively to Pakistan's efforts for meaningful dialogue with India on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. The resolution expresses concern that the dispute causes a threat to peace and security in the region and calls for redeployment of forces to peacetime locations. It endorses the ICO secretary general's recommendation that the true representatives of the Kashmiri people should be allowed to express their views in the ICO and other international forums and asked the secretary general to take necessary action to this end. The resolution provides for the establishment of a contact group which would coordinate efforts of member states to promote the aspirations of the Kashmiri people for self-determination in accordance with UN resolutions and to protect their fundamental rights.

Answering questions by newsmen, a Foreign Office spokesman said this resolution of the ICO is more substantive, stronger, and action-oriented.

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The resolution on Bosnia-Herzegovina recommended by the drafting committee calls for deployment of international monitors on Bosnian-Serb-Montenegro borders to stem the flow of arms to Serb aggressors; tightening of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro; protection of UN-designated safe areas; demilitarization of Sarajevo; and lifting of arms embargo against the Bosnian Government. The resolution recommends a special session of the UN General Assembly in case the Security Council is unable to take action to enforce its decisions.

The resolution on Afghanistan expresses deep concern at the fratricidal war and appeals to the Afghans to bring their hostility to an immediate end. It affirms the need for credible intra-Afghan (?process) for restoring peace and security. The resolution appreciates the efforts of the United Nations and requests the Islamic Development Bank to prepare a report on the requirements for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The committee also finalized recommendations on Palestine and al-Qods al-Sharif, Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, and the row between Libya and the United States and the United Nations.

Iraq Sanctions Not on Agenda

LD0709130794 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 7, IRNA—Lifting of economic sanctions on Iraq is not included in the agenda of the ongoing annual foreign ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] because of opposition of certain countries.

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesperson told IRNA here Wednesday [7 September] that the issue was raised at experts sessions of the OIC member countries on Tuesday [6 September] but was not put on the agenda due to opposition of certain countries.

The official did not give names of the countries, but informed sources said they include Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Ministers and representatives of 47 countries are taking part at the extraordinary session of the OIC foreign ministers which was inaugurated here Wednesday by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Delegates Discuss Bosnia

BK0809145294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The leaders of delegations participating in the seventh extraordinary session of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers have called for unity in the Muslim ummah to face the challenges of the changing global situation. Speaking at the morning session on the second day of the conference in Islamabad today, they said such a unity would not only help bring about prosperity and self-reliance, but it would also serve as a bulwark against foreign aggression.

Expressing concern over the human rights violations in occupied Kashmir, they supported Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir issue. They called upon India to honor her commitment to the right of self-determination and allow the Kashmiri people to determine the future of Jammu and Kashmir, which is a disputed territory. The ICO delegates supported the Kashmiris' just struggle for the right of self-determination and called for a peaceful solution of the issue in accordance with UN resolutions.

They also expressed concern over the situation in Bosnia and asked the world community in general and the ICO in particular to do something concrete to end the alarming situation there. They also called upon the United Nations to give the Bosnian people the right of self-defense.

Referring to the fratricide in Afghanistan, they called upon Afghan leaders to stop hostilities and immediately start negotiations for peace and reconstruction of the country.

They also called upon Israel to restore the rights of the Arabs and the Palestinians and vacate the territories under its occupation.

Those who addressed the session included leaders of delegations of Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Tunisia, Nigeria, Indonesia and the representatives of the Turkish Cypriots and Uganda. The leader of the Algerian delegation also addressed the session.

Efforts on Afghanistan To Resume

LD0809214994 Tehran IRNA in English 2112 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sep. 8, IRNA—OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] Secretary General Dr. Hamid al-Ghabid will resume his efforts for resolving the on-going conflict in Afghanistan.

Briefing journalists on the deliberations of the second day of 3-day Islamic extra-ordinary session of foreign ministers of Islamic countries, a foreign office spokesman said Ghabid, "encouraged by the members of OIC Committee on Afghanistan", had agreed to resume his peace initiative.

The committee today have had separate meetings with representatives of President Borhanoddin Rabbani and those of Supreme Coordination Council led by his arch-foe Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar besides neutral leaders, "in view of positions of various groups regarding negotiations various possible formats and venues of intra-Afghan talks were also discussed," the spokesman added.

He said OIC senior officials had drafted six resolutions that were to be put up before the foreign ministers at the concluding session to be held tomorrow (Friday).

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The draft resolution on Kashmir, called for the establishment of OIC Contact Group on Kashmir to promote fundamental rights and aspirations of Kashmiri people for their right to self determination in the light of relevant United Nations resolutions.

The spokesman said the proposed resolution on Afghanistan expressed concern over fratricidal conflict in that war-shattered country and appealed to all Afghan leadership to bring hostilities to an immediate end. It emphasised the urgent need for a new political consensus among the Afghan parties.

At the same time, the proposed declaration, appreciated the efforts of United Nations.

On Palestine issue, the draft resolution said that question of al-Quds (Jerusalem), "the heart of Palestinian", issue, was to be addressed.

Referring to Bosnia, the spokesman said that proposed resolution called for the deployment of international monitors along Serbia to stem the flow of arms to Serb aggressors. It also referred to the tightening of sanctions against Serbia for their refusal to accept the demands of Security Council. It also called for the protection of UN designated safe areas, demilitarisation of Sarajevo besides reaffirming inapplicability of Security Council Resolution 713 on arms embargo on Bosnia.

The OIC is to condemn Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan considering it a crime against humanity. It strongly demanded implementation of Security Council resolutions in this respect asking OIC states to seek action in security council for the implementation of these resolutions.

Turkish Minister Gives Speech

TA0709164994 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1515 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Ankara, Sept 7 (A.A)—Tourism Minister Halil Culhaoglu said today that favorable developments were taking place in the solution of the Middle Eastern issue.

Addressing the seventh extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO], Culhaoglu said that positive developments on the Middle East will hopefully bring a lasting and equitable peace to the region, by also responding to the needs of Palestinians.

He said that the same favorable developments can not be mentioned for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Stressing that OIC member countries cannot remain outside the peace process in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said 'if the other contact group wants the active support of the international community for the effective implementation of the peace plan, then it will certanly need the active participation of the OIC in the peace process.'

He added that Turkey will continue supporting the just cause of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Culhaoglu said that Turkey was concerned of the Kashmir issue which blocked the efforts to establish good neighbourly relations between Pakistan and India and the creation of an atmosphere of peace and stability in the region. [sentence as received]

We believe that the problem could be resolved on the basis of international legitimacy, he said.

He said that the tragic situation in Afghanistan was a source of serious concern for Turkey.

'In order to resume its role in the region, Afghanistan should maintain its national unity and territorial integrity.

'Therefore we support efforts aimed at conciliation among all Afghan groups,' he said.

Culhaoglu recalled that 20 percent of Azeri land was under Armenian invasion and that this was unacceptable.

The meeting attended by 51 nations is expected to issue a joint statement on Azerbaijan.

Velayati Discusses Palestine

LD0709194594 Tehran IRNA in English 1847 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sept. 7, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today called the question of Palestine as the greatest anguish and torment of the Islamic ummah. Velayati speaking at the opening session of the foreign ministerial session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization], stressed that the implications of this question go beyond the Middle East region and affect all Muslims.

"Israeli occupation of the territories of Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan and its possession and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction, as well as its daily acts of aggression particularly against southern Lebanon, habitual abduction of civilians and massive violations of human rights of Palestinians have continued unabated with no end in sight, despite much international fanfare about the so-called peace process", he said.

"Ironically", Velayati added, "the victims of aggression and occupation are branded with different negative labels, while Israel. receiving the total support of the U.S. and western countries, continues its criminal policies with impunity".

He said the recent agreements are not realistic solutions as they fail to address or even consider the root causes of the conflict. "It is clear now that Israel does not want peace, nor is it even serious about its own commitments.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that a just and lasting solution to the Palestine problem has to include the return of the Palestinian people to their homeland

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and exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination through inter alia establishment of their own independent state in the entire territory of Palestine".

Referring to the plight of Europe's native Muslims in Bosnia, Velayati said that during the past 29 months the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have been subjected to the most brutal and savage acts of aggression, ethnic cleansing and genocide. The Serbs regected all peace plans, the latest one of which was proposed by the five nation contact group. "In the face of the acceptance of the plan by the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its rejection by Serbs, the five nation contact group must live up to their commitment to assist the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its defensive campaign against aggession," said the Iranian foreign minister. "The least of such promised measures," he said, "include the immediate lifting of the illegal arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and strict enforcement of sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. Almost two months elapses from the deadline set by the five nation contact group and no action has been taken or even envisaged. The result has been nothing but permitting the Serbian aggressors to continue their atrocities."

Velayati said the OIC contact group has proved to be a valuable mechanism to mobilize the membership of the organization in favour of this cause. He also referred to a previous meeting of OIC in Geneva on August 4 in which it was suggested to convene a summit of contact group members to further consider the issue and determine a more resolute course of action.

He said, "in light of the latest developments, the Security Council has no legal or moral alternative but to take effective measures towards restoring the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Bosnia, including the end to the illegal arms embargo against Bosnia and stiffer sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro."

Referring to the question of Kashmir he said Iran has always called for a politcal solution to the problem through negotiations between the parties involved.

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan he said "it is our belief that the only solution to the crisis in Afghanistan is dialogue and negotiation between all Afghan groups. This is the only way to ensure a more hopeful and prosperous future for the Muslim people of Afghanistan." He added all groups should participate in negotiations in order to achieve a lasting solution.

Adverting to the situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan he said: "We have expressed our support for the Muslim people of Azerbaijan, condemned the occupation of Azeri territory by forceo and underlined the imperative of negotiating a political solution to the conflict in Karabakh. In the past few years, Iran has tried to establish the proper environment for the initiation of political dialogue and negotiation between the parties in this conflict. We will continue our efforts and support all endeavors toward finding a peaceful solution to this conflict."

In addition, he said the conflict in Tajikistan, the regrettable situation in Somalia, and attacks on the values of Muslims are all serious indications of threats against the Islamic ummah.

Referring to the controversial conference on population and development which opened in Cairo yesterday, he said the western countries are trying to impose a set of beliefs and a value system on the entire humanity. "The Muslim countries and in fact all those believing in divine teachings, must take a unified stand in the Cairo conference against any attempt to universally condone failed social policies of the west."

[Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1630 GMT on 7 September carries a shorter report on Velayati's address to the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) foreign ministers in Islamabad, which includes the following: "Continuing his speech, Mr. Velayati said: While we are gathered here, the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo is debating certain issues that are of vital importance to our ideological values. Suspicious and questionable issues are raised in Cairo. He added: I declare officially that the aims of family planning and population control are achievable and have been accomplished without resorting to abortion or immorality. Mr. Velayati called for the adoption of united stances by all Islamic countries regarding important political, social, cultural, and economic issues, taking into account the current situation of the world."]

Velayati Statement on Bosnia Deadlock

LD0909101994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] At the end of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers' meeting in Islamabad, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati announced: Islamic countries and the world's Muslims can no longer accept the existing deadlock regarding the problem of Bosnia. Mr. Velayati said during a news conference: The arms embargo against Bosnia is one-sided. The opposing side has access to various weapons and resources.

On the situation in Afghanistan, the foreign minister announced the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to cooperate with any effort that rescues the people of that country from the current complicated crisis.

In response to a question on the Kashmir issue, Mr. Velayati once again emphasized: Iran is ready to mediate between India and Pakistan.

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Bhutto Receives Bosnian Prime Minister, Others

BK0809155294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mr. Haris Silajdzic, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad this morning. Issues confronting the Muslim ummah—particularly the situation in Bosnia, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Palestine—came under discussion. They reaffirmed the principled stand of their respective governments on these issues and expressed their satisfaction over the deliberations of the Islamic conference of foreign ministers.

The prime minister had individual meetings with Secretary General ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] Dr. Hamid Algabid and delegates of various countries attending the Islamic conference of foreign ministers in Islamabad today. The delegates thanked the prime minister for the warmth and hospitality extended to them by the government. They appreciated the prime minister's inaugural address to the seventh extraordinary session of the conference, in which she comprehensively dwelt on all issues faced by the Muslim ummah. Bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields between member countries of ICO was also discussed during the meeting. The secretary general exchanged views with the prime minister on matters relating to different functions of ICO. The countries whose delegates called on the prime minister were Syria, Djibouti, Maldives, Palestine, and Cape Verde.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto hosted a lunch in honor of the foreign ministers and delegates of Islamic countries participating in the ICO meet in Islamabad today. ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid and Bosnian Prime Minister Mr. Haris Silajdzic, Chairman of Parliamentary Kashmir Committee Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, and Chairman of National Assembly Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Maulana Fazlur Rahman attended the lunch.

The special emissary of the King of Morocco, Mr. (Abdus Salam Farzani), called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and conveyed the greetings of King Hassan II and the prime minister [title as heard] of Morocco, Filali. He delivered an invitation of King Hassan II to the prime minister to attend the international economic conference on Middle East and North Africa in Casablanca, on the lines of the Davos forum. He informed the prime minister that from Asia a number of countries are being specially invited. They include Pakistan, India, Japan, China, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, and Indonesia. The prime minister expressed her thanks for the invitation and asked the special emissary to convey her best wishes and greetings to King Hassan II and the government and people of Morocco. The prime minister further said that Davos-type conferences would achieve greater results, particularly among countries which also have trade relations with each other.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 2 Sep

NC0709105494

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 2 September issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo Al-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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ISLAMIC COUNTRIES, ORGANIZATIONS OPPOSE ICPD

An 850-word "exclusive" and unattributed London-datelined report on page 1 highlights the increasing Islamic opposition to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo. It says that many leading Islamic countries and organizations are boycotting the conference and condemning it. It notes that Saudi Arabia was the first Islamic country to boycott the ICPD followed by Sudan. Morocco apologized for not attending but a question mark hangs over whether it will send a low-level delegation. Kuwait said it will attend to prevent the ICPD from issuing anything that contravenes Islamic shari'ah. Moving to Iran, the report says: "There is increased opposition to the government's decision to attend the ICPD to oppose its recommendations. This criticism of the ICPD and the government's decision is increasing and the newspapers' editorials are daily condemning the conference and demanding that the government boycott it." It then notes that the Islamic Action Front in Jordan also issued a statement condemning the conference and urging the Arab and Islamic countries to boycott it. Various Islamic organizations in Malaysia condemned the conference while Britain's Muslims also demanded that the conference be moved from Cairo. The report concludes by saying that even the Polish president sent a message to the Cairo conference condemning its stance on abortion and public morals, that Italy will oppose the recommendations on abortion, and that Catholic bishops in Africa called on their countries to boycott it.

SAUDI ULEMAS DECISION ON ICPD GIVEN IN FULL

Some 1,500 words on pages 1 and 7 are devoted to reproducing the statement issued by the Council of Senior 'Ulemas in Saudi Arabia on 30 August, condemning the ICPD.

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SHAYKH AL-SHA'RAWI VIEWS ICPD'S CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

The paper publishes on page 3 a 1,700-word report on an interview with Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi by Muhammad Badr, which was conducted in coordination with AL-WAFD; AL-WAFD publishes the same report in its 2 September edition. The interview deals with the controversial issues before the ICPD, mainly those of abortion and women's rights. Asked about threats to cut off aid to countries that will not apply the ICPD recommendations, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi is quoted as saying: "When I heard that aid will be linked with the recommendations I said that a Muslim does not even accept or think of accepting selling his religion for his loaf of bread. Those who are concerned with their nations' income and livelihood do not fear, because God said so and banned the polytheists from entering the Kaaba."

Commenting on the ICPD document's call for sex education, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi is cited as adding: "Sex is not taught. It is an instinct. Sex precautions should be taught. The important thing is precaution about expressing this instinct." He then comments on nonheterosexual marriages and says: "Family marriage means a man and a wife procreate and create a family. The marriage of individuals means one individual marrying another without becoming a family, that is a, man marrying a man and a woman marrying a woman. The purpose of copulation is pleasure and procreation. The document makes it only one of pleasure. Two men or two women married to each other do not procreate. These words have been written so as to legalize and spread homosexuality."

On abortion, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi says: "Islam has banned abortion. But if an experienced Muslim doctor decides that pregnancy poses a danger to the woman, then it is permissible to sacrifice the fetus to save the mother's life. As for abortion as a means of livelihood (and most of the conference debate revolves around this issue), they cite the prophet—God's prayers and peace be with him—when he admonished against too many children and a scarcity of money. We tell them: Why have you chosen the killing of children and not developing resources? Children are an incentive for every father, encouraging him to seek food to feed his offspring." He then argues that when it comes to women's rights, it was Western civilization that restricted them, not Islam. He says: "It was Western civilization that unjustly treated the woman and made her forget her name the moment she married. It gave her no rights to money, neither when she lives with her father nor with her husband. But Islam has given her justice and separate financial resources to dispense with as she likes as soon as she comes of age." He then goes on to cite the Koran on the rights given to males and females.

STOPPING POPULATION GROWTH IS TOP U.S. PRIORITY

A 1,600-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im is published on page 3 under the headline "U.S. Officials Admit: Stopping the Population Increase in the Islamic World Is a U.S. National Security Priority." The writer starts by citing statements by Timothy Wirth, adviser to the secretary of state, in which he stressed that the Cairo conference is not only about abortion but also about stabilizing population growth in the world. He then quotes the State Department spokesman's statements about the U.S. objective of drawing up an advanced work plan on population and development and his assertion that the population issue heads the long-term national security issues that interest the U.S. Administration. Dr. Faith Mitchell, identified as the senior State Department coordinator on the ICPD, is then cited as saying that one criterion of the conference's success would be the various parties' commitment to achieving quick progress in controlling population growth. A Voice of America commentary is then cited on the U.S. Administration's determination to play a leading role in the ICPD. The report then details President Clinton's request that the Congress increase the allocations for U.S. aid to population-control programs. The writer then says that "the United States and the West are seeking to stop the population growth in our countries because Western thinkers believe that the birth of a child in the Third World reduces the prosperity enjoyed by their children. They also believe that population increase means more consumption of resources. Therefore, they believe in the need to stop this increase completely so that they can enjoy nature's wealth. But stopping the increase and stabilizing the population numbers are not enough. They also want to reduce consumption by limiting income, not raising the individuals' standards of living, and by not helping economic growth, as this would mean increasing the individuals' consumption and, consequently, the consumption of more world resources at the expense of the West." To bolster this claim, the writer cites extensively from an article written by Jerome Segal, Middle East coordinator in the U.S. Agency for International Development, about the West's hopes that the developing countries would have the foresight to strengthen a social view that avoids huge consumption. The writer then concludes by saying that "the West has succeeded in obtaining pledges from some Islamic and Third World countries to stop population growth. But it is now studying the implementation of the second stage of the plan, namely how to keep our countries up to their ears in poverty, to impose all the measures that stabilize the national income average, and continue the drop in the standards of living so that we do not increase our consumption of resources which they alone want to enjoy, as if we are a herd of animals that have no rights at all."

ARTICLE ON ICPD'S ABORTION, HOMOSEXUALITY ISSUES

A 5,000-word article by 'Adil Husayn on page 5 concentrates on the issue of abortion and, to a lesser degree, on that of homosexuality in his criticism of the ICPD and

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its document. The writer begins by saying that Western society is suffering from the spread of vice and moral decadence and is now seeking to impose this condition on other peoples and primarily on the Islamic nation. Addressing the abortion issue, he considers the development of the fetus and says that abortion during any of the fetal stages of development is a blatant and ugly act of killing of souls that cannot defend themselves. He adds: "Islam bans this except when necessary as accurately defined by Islamic jurisprudence. Other religions and people of conscience have the same attitude. Abortion therefore is the climax of the satanic plot to liquidate the blood ties between people given to them by God." The writer then praises former Presidents Reagan and Bush for defending the rights of unborn children and for refusing to help international abortion programs and for not adopting the cause of homosexuals and lesbians. He then notes that this changed under the Clinton administration, which began by accepting homosexuals in the Army despite fierce opposition from American society. He stresses that the ICPD document legalizes and gives protection to abortion and advocates the use of contraceptives as a means of reducing the abortion rate but points out that "despite the widespread use of contraceptions, we see that the United States holds the record in the number of abortions and that with the spread of illicit sexual relations, we find that one in five in the United States suffers from a terminal sexual disease." He then tackles the issue of what is termed "safe motherhood" in the document and argues that this is only a cover for imposing abortion and curtailing population numbers. He then recalls a previous article he wrote in which he argues that the ICPD objective is the elimination of the largest possible number of human beings, especially in the Muslim nation, without war or uproar. The writer then moves to argue the case of the family as the nucleus of society and says that this nucleus is being threatened by the calls for women's liberation. In conclusion, he says that the conference resolutions are binding and are an action program and that those countries that refuse to apply them will be subjected to threats. He then adds: "What can we do against this satanic plot? We could have incited millions to confront what is being schemed against them had our country's laws allowed the staging of demonstrations. But this will not happen because of the emergency laws. The alternative in the hands of the faithful is to pray more and appeal to God against the arrogant killers. And this is a great weapon, if you only know." After urging the faithful to perform these prayers on Friday, he says that "the tasks of the post-conference al-jihad are great. The priority task is to uphold the value of the family and resist vice and decadence. Every family should increase the number of its children in obedience to God's orders. This is a jihad for every capable person."

AL-SHA'B ALLOWED TO COVER ICPD PROCEEDINGS

A 40-word report on page 1 says that the ICPD organizers have agreed to let AL-SHA'B correspondents cover the conference proceedings.

TEACHER ARRESTED FOR SHELTERING FUNDAMENTALISTS

An 80-word report on page 7 by Muhammad Bishari says that security forces arrested teacher Mahmud Yusuf in al-Qusiyah on charges of sheltering fundamentalist elements in his house. Several other persons were detained and abused inside the police station. It adds that the siege of Qina continues and that a policeman caused panic when he opened fire on a mentally retarded person who threw a bag of soil at him.

DETAINED LAWYER'S DEFENSE TO SUE MAGAZINE

A 90-word report on page 7 says that the defense counsel of detained lawyer Muntasir al-Zayyat has decided to sue ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine for publishing false accusations and lies about him. Meanwhile, the Liberty human rights organization has asked the authorities to release al-Zayyat and demanded an investigation into the circumstances of his detention.

REPORT DETAILS ARRESTS OF ISLAMISTS IN OMAN, BAHRAIN

A 1,500—word report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on page 8 details the wave of arrests among Islamists in the Sultanate of Oman and Bahrain.

ISLAMIC STUDIES UNIVERSITY TO OPEN IN LOS ANGELES

A 400-word report by Rab'i Shahin on page 8 says the first Islamic studies university will be opened in the United States early next month. It can enroll between 1,500 and 10,000 students for all social and Islamic courses. Shahin adds that "the aim is to teach the science of propagating Islamic and train propagators who will combine both a knowledge of jurisprudence and religion with complete understanding of the American people's habits, traditions, and psychology so that the Islam can be spread on a scientific basis." Dr. Ahmad Hasan 'Abdallah, president of the Los Angeles University, who is charge of the project, says that the Islamic Center in the state has been turned into a university following a scientific study of the project done with the cooperation of the U.S. Administration.

STATEMENT URGES ICPD BE STOPPED

Al-SHA'B's entire last page is devoted to a statement and signatures of various figures from all over the world criticizing the ICPD and calling for stopping it. The statement, which together with the names of signatories, is in English, says "if it is allowed to take place the Cairo event will serve de facto as an update of the 1932 eugenics conference ushering in a new era of deliberate global depopulation, which will far surpass in savagery

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even Hitler's wildest dreams." The signatories come from North America, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arab Government' Closes Abu-Nidal Offices

NC0909075994 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 31 Aug 94 p 15

[Text] Paris—AL-DIYAR—Western diplomatic sources have told AL-DIYAR that last week an Arab government closed all the offices of the group led by Fatah dissident Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] on its territory. This government formally and categorically told Abu-Nidal to seek some other asylum and gave him a deadline of three weeks to do so.

Western Europe's "number two enemy"—second only to Carlos—has begun looking for another Arab country willing to take the risk of hosting him. He has a condition: He must not be used as a scapegoat at the first hint of pressure on the country receiving him.

Libya has already told the Western countries concerned with Abu-Nidal's dossier that it has broken off its links with him.

PNA Transport Official on Jordan Talks

JN0809153794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 29

[By Tawfiq al-'Abid]

[Excerpts] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, minister of transport and communications in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has said that he signed an agreement with the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority during the past two days, according to which the authority will train a large number of Palestinian technical cadres on maintenance, ground services, and air surveillance.

In statements to AL-DUSTUR, Dr. al-Hajj Ahmad added that his talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Minister of Transporation Engineer Samir Qa'war were very fruitful. The talks were conducted in a fraternal atmosphere, he noted. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude for the great support Jordan is extending to the PNA in all areas. [passage omitted]

Answering a question, Dr. al-Hajj Ahmad said that two civilian helicopters affiliated with the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority are expected to arrive in the autonomous areas within the next two weeks. These two helicopters will be the first to be operated by the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority. They will be used to transport Palestinian officials from Gaza to Jericho and vice versa. The aim of the authority is to have a fleet of four helicopters, each with a capacity of 50 passengers. He added that the other two helicopters will transport passengers from the autonomous areas to the outside world. The number of helicopters to be operated by the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority will be augmented at a later stage.

Dr. al-Hajj Ahmad went on to say: An agreement has been reached with the Israelis to build runways in Gaza and Jericho. Right now, we are in the process of inviting offers for the construction of two airports in the two areas. But, in the first stage, efforts will focus on the construction of an airport in Gaza. [passage omitted]

Police Find Iranian Faxes Calling For Attacks

TA0809113294 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Sep 94 pp 1, 17

[Report by David Regev]

[Excerpt] Islamic Jihad terrorists in the Gaza Strip have received faxes from Iran. Senior Palestinian police sources have revealed that they found the faxes, which contained encouragement to step up terror attacks against Israeli targets, in the course of the wave of detentions of Islamic Jihad activists over the past two days.

According to the sources, the faxes prove that radical Iranian Muslims are behind attacks carried out by Islamic Jihad terrorists since the establishment of autonomy, including the most recent attack at Morag Junction last Sunday [4 September], in which Sergeant Victor Shichman was killed.

In the faxes, which may have reached the Strip directly from Iran or via a third country, the organization members are urged to step up attacks on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the settlers in order to undermine the Palestinian rule and eventually topple the autonomy arrangement.

The sources said the faxes carried a general demand for attacks, without elaborating on methods. [passage omitted]

Qatari Sports Team Visits; 2 Iraqi Players Barred

JN0909091694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] A Qatari sports delegation arrived in Jericho yesterday via the Allenby Bridge after a several-hour delay because of the obstacles set by the Israeli authorities, which prohibited two Iraqi players on the team from crossing the bridge.

The delegation was received by officials from the Sports and Youth Ministry. The delegation will stay in the country for eight days. A program of intensive visits and activities has been set for the team.

Security Services Release Islamic Jihad Members PNA Prosecutor on Arrests

JN0809140994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1050 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Interview with Khalid al-Qidrah, official in charge of judicial affairs in the PNA, by 'Umar Zaydani; place and date not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

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[Text] [Zaydani] Mr. Khalid al-Qidrah, public prosecutor in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]: Could you give us some information about the arrest campaign by Palestinian police against the Islamic Jihad members.

[Al-Qidrah] What I would like to say is that the most important duty of any sovereign state or authority is to provide security to the society and its people and to maintain law and order. Our Palestinian people, like other civilized peoples, have their external and internal security, and they have the right to maintain this security through all means in order to preserve their accomplishments and higher interests. As a Palestinian prosecutor, I would like to say that arrests are made in accordance with the law and by competent authorities. Any Palestinian must, if arrested, be interrogated in a fair and honest manner in which all legal guarantees and human rights are observed. If evidence is found after investigation, the person will be tried in Palestinian courts. Otherwise, he will be released immediately. We are a state, or an authority, that fully respects the law.

[Zaydani] There is nothing in the law on administrative detention.

[Al-Qidrah] We do not want to charge people arbitrarily. We do not want to return to the obsolete laws of the British mandate, which were introduced and imposed to protect that mandate and were not in the interest of the Palestinian people. As I have said, we and our leadership, represented by President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], are keen on enforcing the law. Every crime or punishment is covered by our laws, and only the deeds committed after the issuance of this law are punishable.

[Zaydani] Mr. Khalid al-Qidrah, according to the law, how long can a person be detained before standing trial?

[Al-Qidrah] We cannot say that the law sanctions that a person be detained without standing trial. A person is detained or arrested for investigation, based on certain charges leveled at him. Detentions are made for the purpose of investigation. Detention for the first time is for 48 hours, and could be extended to 15 days. If investigation does not end during this period, the law authorizes that detention be extended for another 15 days. If the detention period exceeds 30 days, the only side authorized to request a further extension is the public prosecutor.

[Zaydani] Mr. Khalid al-Qidrah, public prosecutor in the Palestinian National Authority, as you know this arrest campaign came after the killing of a soldier when fire was opened on a patrol. Yasir 'Arafat said that instructions to these cells—the Islamic Jihad—come from outside the Gaza Strip. Have investigations proven that?

[Al-Qidrah] We are an investigating and prosecuting authority. There are other bodies in charge of collecting data and referring it to the president. I am not the one who receives these instructions or information. I receive them only within the framework of the open investigation I carry out.

[Zaydani] Is there a possibility, judging from the investigation proceedings, that some of the arrested persons will be sent to trial?

[Al-Qidrah] The investigation is under way. I do not want to rush things. As I said, I reiterate that any person against whom evidence is found will be given a fair and honest trial. Otherwise, he will be released.

[Zaydani] Mr. Khalid al-Qidrah, public prosecutor general in the Palestinian National Authority, thank you very much.

[Al-Qidrah] Thank you.

Ten 'Activists' Released

TA0809120194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Today the Palestinian security services released 10 Islamic Jihad activists detained in recent days. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Palestinian police are still holding about 50 Islamic Jihad activists in detention. Some 150 relatives of the detainees demonstrated outside Gaza prison at noon, demanding their release. The demonstration lasted about an hour and dispersed quietly.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 8 September carries an interview with Khalid al-Qidrah, the attorney general for the Palestinian Authority, in which he is quoted as saying that "emergency laws will not be invoked nor will administrative detentions be imposed." In a recorded passage, al-Qidrah says: "What I want to assure you, and to assure everybody, that everything in our jurisdiction goes according to the laws. Nobody can be arrested without sufficient evidence that he committed something against the law, nobody can be tried without an investigation, and nobody can be punished without a judgment."]

Six Members Said Released

JN0809183594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Six members of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Gaza were released today. They were arrested last Monday [5 September]. Their release came following their commitment to respect the law.

Sources from the Islamic Jihad Movement and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said that 58 of their members are still under arrest.

Jihad Warns 'Tyrant' 'Arafat

NC0809182494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Report by Muhammad Bishkar in Beirut]

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[Excerpt] The scope of opposition to the campaigns of arrests conducted by the Palestinian police against members of the Islamic Jihad in Gaza is widening. Today massive popular marches were staged in Gaza to protest the arrests. Hundreds of demonstrators who surrounded the headquarters of the Palestinian police in the city demanded the immediate release of the detainees. The demonstrators shouted slogans against the Palestinian National Authority and the Zionist occupation. [passage omitted]

In a press release distributed today and signed by its secretary general Dr. Fathi al-Shiqaqi, the Islamic Jihad strongly criticized Yasir 'Arafat and described him as the new military governor of Gaza and Jericho. Dr. al-Shiqaqi added that 'Arafat continues to commit crimes against Palestine and the Palestinian people. He added that the Palestinian people, who have triggered the greatest intifadah against occupation in history, will not bow to the new tyrant. He warned that if the detainees are not immediately released, 'Arafat will be held personally responsible.

Dr. al-Shiqaqi concluded by saying that if 'Arafat believes that the Islamic Jihad will remain silent about the arrest of its members, the people's rage and the revenge of the mujahidin will not take long to materialize.

Jihad, PFLP, DFLP Urge Release

JN0909092694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Fathi al-Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement for the Liberation of Palestine, and the secretaries general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah, have called on the Palestinian Authority to release their members who are detained in Gaza jail.

A statement issued by the PFLP and the DFLP warned the Palestinian Authority against continuing the arrest campaigns.

'Arafat Meets With Hamas Leaders

NC0809165794 Paris AFP in English 1534 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Sept 8 (AFP)—PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat met Thursday [8 September] with Hamas leaders in an apparent move towards reconciliation with the Islamic fundamentalists, an AFP correspondent reported.

The talks at the Islamic University came a day after 'Arafat granted Hamas permission to publish a weekly magazine.

A week ago the self-rule authority released the last four of 20 Hamas followers detained last month in connection with attacks on Israelis.

Since Monday, police have rounded up more than 50 members of another Muslim fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad, which claimed the murder Sunday of an Israeli soldier.

Hamas leaders have previously spoken with PLO officials, but this was the first time they met with 'Arafat as a group. Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu-Rudaynah said the PLO chief and about 30 academics from the Hamas stronghold discussed "matters of daily importance."

He did not elaborate, but other officials said 'Arafat was ready to start a dialogue with Hamas. 'Arafat met Wednesday with 'Imad al-Faluji, a Hamas official who obtained permission to publish a newspaper.

Al-Faluji, who was released from Israeli prison earlier this year, said his newspaper, to be called AL-WATAN (the nation) would reflect Hamas' opposition to the peace process with Israel.

Hamas leaders who attended Thursday's talks also said no political matters were discussed.

Mahmud al-Zahar, a member of the Islamic University council, said 'Arafat's office announced the planned visit a day earlier. "We did not discuss politics," he said. "We hope the future stage will be better than the past, but we will need a basis and structure for future dialogue."

Al-Zahar said Hamas had not changed its stand. The movement strongly opposes the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy agreement, and has vowed to continue fighting Israeli occupation.

It has claimed responsibility for most attacks that have killed 18 Israelis since the start of Palestinian self-rule in May. And it criticized the Palestinian authority for cracking down on Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for an ambush last week that killed an Israeli soldier.

Hamas warned Wednesday that the autonomy accord and the detentions were "sowing discord and dividing the Palestinian people more and more."

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Leaves Tunis for Jericho

JN0909091994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas left Tunis yesterday on his way to Jericho, where he is expected to arrive today on his first visit to the area under the control of the National Authority.

AL-NAHAR Said To Remain 'Free Palestinian Pulpit'

TA0809194994 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Sep 94 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "A Pledge—and Thanks"]

[Excerpts] AL-NAHAR, which renewed publication today after a 36-day suspension, has returned in a new

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form to reinforce, as it did in the past, a series of principles and views that it advocated since it was issued, namely, that it is a Palestinian newspaper to the bone and an Arab newspaper to the marrow. These convictions and principles embody the values of our people and greatly affect their lives.

If AL-NAHAR is reuniting with the pains and hopes of these struggling people, it will continue to fulfill its mission stemming from its responsibility toward the homeland and the citizens. This is a pledge that we undertook from the beginning amid the challenges that confronted these people since the occupation in 1967 and the attempt to obliterate the Palestinian identity, which our people protected with their blood and souls.

Since a few months, our people have entered a new stage in their lives on the road to building an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, under the PLO's leadership and through the establishment of the National Authority as a transitional phase. The slogan of the authority is to unite the word and close the ranks of the Palestinian people under the shadow of democracy and freedom of opinion and expression. This slogan has always been our national pride. If AL-NAHAR was banned, this was a summer cloud that passed and with it, its causes. AL-NAHAR will remain committed to the national line and to the cause to which it dedicated itself. It will continue defending the kinfolks and exposing the suffering of our people wherever they may be until their hopes and aspirations are realized. Furnishing the Palestinian house with democracy in all its requirements and conditions is the only way to organize our political lives and employ them in the service of the homeland.

The task of the news media, including AL-NAHAR, is to support with all their potential the real positions of our people and protect their lives. [passage omitted]

Today, we promise our people that AL-NAHAR will continue to struggle to build our democratic and free state and will continue actively to organize our march until the birth of Palestine, this lofty edifice of which coming generations will be proud and which will herald a future of dignity and honor.

Here, we cannot but express our thanks and gratitude to all those who supported us and endeavored for AL-NAHAR's renewed publication. We pledge that AL-NAHAR will remain the free Palestinian pulpit that defends the truth.

AL-TALI'AH Resumes Publication After Suspension

TA0809170294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 5

[Excerpts] Jerusalem—The Jerusalem-based AL-TALI'AH weekly newspaper is expected to resume publication today after a four-week suspension. [passage omitted]

The paper's management had announced that it will stop publishing the paper as of 10 August for administrative reasons. Last week an issue of the paper, bearing the number zero, was published prior to the usual weekly publication of the paper as of today.

Mahmud Shuqayr is chief editor of the paper.

No PNC Session Before Israeli Withdrawal

TA0809185394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 4

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Text] Jerusalem—Sakhr Habash, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has described the Israeli attempt to divide the al-Ibrahimi Mosque as a new step in Israeli policy, which has been violating its commitments all the time since the signing of the Oslo agreement and those signed in Washington and Cairo and most recently at the Erez checkpoint.

He said that the commitments stipulated in the agreements are one thing and what is happening on the ground is another. The crossings are not crossings and the principles agreed on with regard to protecting Palestinian dignity are not being implemented. Confiscation of land and procrastination in releasing male and female detainees are continuing. The repatriation of deportees, who are waiting for an end to their forcible tragedy, seems unattainable. This is apart from the fact that the timetable stipulated in the agreements, whether with regard to withdrawals, the assumption of early empowerment, or elections has been ignored. Under no circumstances is this compatible with a peaceful policy.

Sakhr Habash held that the U.S. side, which is continuing to pursue a policy of double standards at a time when it must be a sponsor of the peace process, is responsible for this Israeli arrogance.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council secretary added that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's and the U.S. Administration's demand that President 'Arafat convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] and raise the issue of the National Charter comes within framework of attempts to undermine and place obstacles before the settlement process, especially as the U.S. Administration itself has not honored its commitments since becoming the major sponsor of the Madrid conference and the peace process.

The Palestinian official said that any invitation to convene the PNC should take into account the participation of the representatives of our people in the West Bank, including Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. In order to have this representation realized in a democratic and comprehensive manner, the elections process necessitates that the Palestinian National Authority be expanded over other parts of the occupied West Bank. Naturally, elections must be held after liberation from occupation and after the Palestinian police and security forces are

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deployed throughout all the territories. These elections, in which 186 PNC members are to be chosen to represent the occupied territories, must also be held under international supervision and monitoring.

West Bank Prepares for December Elections

TA0809134294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has instructed the Election Committee, headed by Sa'ib 'Urayqat, to set up regional bureaus in West Bank towns in order to prepare the elections. Sa'ib 'Urayqat told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the bureaus will start operating this week, will register West Bank residents, and prepare voter lists. According to 'Urayqat, 'Arafat's instruction followed Israel's refusal to hand over population register files or allow them to conduct a survey in the West Bank to prepare for general elections, slated to take place on 15 December.

This morning 'Urayqat conferred with representatives of the EU [European Union] which is slated to fund the elections in the territories and briefed them about 'Arafat's decision.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 8 Sep 94 in a related report notes: "Jamal Mansur, a West Bank Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader, said today that the organization is about to set up a political party inside the autonomy. He was speaking at a Bi'r Zayt University rally. The remarks were made in the context of preparing for elections in the territories."]

IDF To Change Patrol Routes in Gaza

TA0809111994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Sep 94 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] An investigation into the circumstances of the Morag attack has revealed that one of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] casualties was wounded by Palestinian policemen as they fired at the fleeing terrorists. Consequently, the Southern Command decided to change the routes of IDF patrols in those areas of Morag Junction and the Qatif Bloc in which IDF and Palestinian troops patrol together.

Under the new plan, new roads will be built to be used only by IDF soldiers. To prevent misunderstandings between Israeli and Palestinian forces, the two sides will only meet at junctions.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 8 September reports that on 7 September, "Palestinian policemen tried to prevent the IDF from erecting concrete roadblocks at Morag Junction in the southern Gaza Strip. The IDF eventually erected the roadblocks, following a confrontation between officers from the two sides. The IDF filed a complaint with the Israeli-Palestinian coordination committee. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the aim of the roadblocks is to check Palestinian cars in the wake of incidents in this area."]

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Algeria

Zeroual Receives Tunisian Justice Minister

LD0809130094 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] President Liamine Zeroual today received Tunisian Justice Minister Sadok Chaabane at the presidency, in the presence of Mihoub Mihhoubi, diplomatic advisor and government spokesman, and Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri. The Tunisian president's envoy brought with him a verbal message from Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to his brother, Liamine Zeroual. The Tunisian justice minister spoke to Jahida Khalfaoui about the purpose of his visit.

[Begin recording] [Chaabane] I have arrived from Tunisia with a verbal message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to his brother, His Excellency President Liamine Zeroual. The verbal message concerns ties between Arab Maghreban states, and how to bolster and develop them.

[Khalfaoui] How does Tunisia view the future of ties between states in the Arab Maghreb Union?

[Chaabane] We expect a great deal from Algeria, as president of the union, and I believe that matters are improving and developing. [end recording]

New Marine Route Opened for Moroccan Tourists

LD0909083794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] As of today, Moroccan nationals in Algeria or crossing Algerian territory on family or tourist visits may return to Morocco. This follows a decision by the Algerian Government, giving its agreement to opening a marine route starting from the port of Oran. In this context the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement stipulating the opening of a marine route from Oran beginning from today, Friday. The statement adds that the air and marine borders between Algeria and Morocco will remain open, bar the land borders which were closed following the recent Moroccan decision imposing the need for visas on Algerians.

Public Workers To Lose Jobs in Privatization

LD0509143494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Privatization was the subject of a news conference held today by Mourad Benachnou, minister of industrial restructuring and participation, in El Djazair Hotel in Algiers. More details from Mohsin Slimani:

[Slimani] Privatizing the public production sector is an inevitable and urgent necessity. This is how Mourad Benachnou, minister of industrial restructuring and participation, summarized government policy in the field of industrial restructuring.

Within this new concept, Benachnou said that the government is intent on radically restructuring the public sector and shouldering responsibility for the negative repercussions which will arise from this restructuring in preserving employment. In this context, Benachnou did not hide that the state is rapidly withdrawing from the economic field and opening the way for the domestic and overseas private sectors to invest in industry.

As for the social dimension and the current situation in the country, Benachnou emphasized that the success of the privatization process is basically linked to achieving social and political harmony. However, he pointed out that this policy will create huge damage among workers during the transitional period. Therefore, reducing the number of workers is one of the points of this process, as Benachnou revealed that approximately 150,000 workers will lose their jobs.

Tourism and other institutions, known for their financial problems, are at the forefront of the sectors in which industrial restructuring will be applied.

These measures can never achieve the results expected by the government without drawing up a new banking system and establishing a money market and stock exchange. Before that, this concept should be brought closer to the positions defended by the most important social factor, namely the General Union of Algerian Workers [UGTA]. Benachenhou said that the UGTA is working with the government within the working group that is discussing the rehabilitation of the public sector. [Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 0600 GMT and again at 0900 GMT on 6 September carried reports on public workers losing jobs due to privatization similar to the ref item. However, the later versions cited Mourad Benachnou, minister of industrial restructuring and participation, as saying that those likely to lose jobs numbered 250,000 vice the 150,000 reported in ref item. The Radio Algiers 0900 GMT 6 September report also added that 180,000 workers will receive unemployment benefits and that 80,000 workers will be given early retirement.]

FIS Reports 13 Killed By Security Forces

LD0809214194 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] In Algeria, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] announced that 13 people were killed in Algiers last week, reportedly by Algerian security forces.

The FIS executive body abroad has said that it approved the statements made by the imprisoned leader Abassi Madani. The latter demanded a general amnesty and the ending of the legal proceedings as conditions for participating in the dialogue with the regime.

Finally, the National Liberation Front mouthpiece EL HIWAR has announced the future release of two FIS leaders, Mr. Guemazi and Mr. Hachani.

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FIS Committee Calls For Response to Letters

MM0809133094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Qasiy Salih al-Darwish: "Salvation Front Considers Response to Conditions a Minimum for Joining Dialogue"]

[Excerpt] Paris—The Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front Executive Committee abroad has stressed that responding to the conditions listed in Abassi Madani's and Ali Belhadj's letters represents the minimum for joining a serious search for a negotiated solution.

This came in a statement issued and distributed yesterday by the Front's Executive Committee headed by Rabeh Kebir. It said that it "is looking with hope at the current dialogue process between the authorities and some opposition parties, and that it considers it an important prelude to securing a suitable atmosphere for joining the search for a comprehensive solution."

The statement strongly condemned the operations carried out by the advocates of eradication in the authorities' services, which are stepped up whenever the wise people decide to talk about dialogue.

The statement welcomed the release of some Salvation Front prisoners, among them two journalists, one of whom is the chief editor of the suspended AL-MUNQIDH newspaper.

Some sources had pointed to the release of a number of Salvation Front prisoners four days ago. The Executive Committee abroad issued another statement three days ago, in which it commented on Anouar Haddam's meeting with a Transitional National Council delegation headed by Djamal Ben Abassi in Sweden. It described the meeting as a personal initiative from Haddam and has nothing to do with the Executive Committee abroad. It stressed that this committee is not authorized to hold such meetings. [passage omitted]

Ennahda Leader Urges Inclusion of FIS

LD0309175794 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1950 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Studio interview with Islamic Ennahda Movement leader Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah by Nasreddine Allaoui, in the "Meeting With the Parties" program—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Allaoui] Ladies and gentlemen, God's peace upon you and welcome to this program devoted to the dialogue with the political parties. Today we continue the series with an interview with Abdallah Djaballah, president of the Islamic Ennahda Movement. Welcome Mr. Djaballah. Just as a reminder, the Ennahda Movement is one of the political formations that took part in the dialogue in all its stages and is now one of the most optimistic parties about the current stage of the dialogue. The Ennahda Movement is also known as one of the parties that has been consistent in its positions, particularly with regard to the interruption of the electoral process and the defense of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] as a party which should be rehabilitated to enable it to carry out its political activities.

Today, the Ennahda Movement, in addition to its activities within the group taking part in the dialogue, is trying to be active toward the FIS to persuade its leaders to enter the dialogue Mr. Djaballah welcome again. The first question I would like to ask you concerns essentially the core of the dialogue this time, in other words the participation of the FIS. Are we going in that direction or are matters still complex between the authorities and the FIS?

[Djaballah] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God and prayers and peace be upon God's messenger. Before I start replying to your question, I would like to remind you that the national dialogue went through several stages. You might recall that in the first stage, when the crisis started after the elections were confiscated [as heard], the then authorities refused the dialogue. At that time we had called for a solution to the crisis through dialogue aimed at national reconciliation. It was not going to be a dialogue for the sake of dialogue but a dialogue for national reconciliation. We acted within the framework of what was then termed the group of [seven] parties. In fact, as you know, the idea was first rejected but thanks to persistent efforts and patience, the issue of dialogue became the central issue at the heart of the national media and the belief in the dialogue as a civilized means and method to solve the country's problems became real with the Algerian people and the entire political class.

The idea of national dialogue was accepted by the Higher State Council [HCE], and dialogue was held with the HCE albeit inadequately. We might deal later with the causes that made the dialogue with the HCE fail. Afterwards, the dialogue with the national dialogue committee was also regrettably inadequate. The dialogue failed for the same reasons which we might tackle later, as I said. The dialogue is now with the head of state. We believe, and God knows better, that if a sincere will and strong determination are there the success of dialogue is possible. [passage omitted]

In our view, the conditions we mentioned for the success of national dialogue—the conditions that we had made since the time of the HCE and then we presented to the national dialogue committee, and affirmed now with the state president—are twofold: There are moral conditions and objective conditions. [passage omitted saying we should listen well to the partner in dialogue; national interest must prevail]

One must not be biased to one's opinion if a third party is proved to be right, because a partner in a dialogue seeks to make his view prevail. One should also make concessions, because if there is no concession, if I enter into a dialogue with you and I want you to accept my

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view and take what I want, then it would not be a dialogue. [passage omitted saying understanding is necessary in a dialogue]

There are also objective conditions, primary among which is the need for a range of measures to be taken to restore quiet to the hearts of citizens, and inspire hope for the sincerity of the intentions of the authorities and seriousness of dialogue. There is a range of measures to be taken. We, in the context of the parties, as is known, the parties known as the conciliatory bloc, we presented to the HCE on 4 January 1994 a document consisting of 14 points, 14 measures which we deem able—if approved—to prepare the climate for organizing a serious and responsible dialogue.

Of the measures we mentioned, there was for example speeding up the return to a normal life in politics and the media, the organization of fair and permanent media, and giving airtime on television to the various political formations fairly and permanently. The other measures [we suggested] also included for example the release of all the political prisoners. We raised the issue clearly and in depth since the first meeting with the HCE. We said then: either this man is innocent and in that case let him go home, or he is guilty in your view and in that case refer him to the courts. In our opinion, the people who have been detained for political reasons are innocent and have not been found guilty. This is why we called for their release. At the top of the list of the political prisoners, there is obviously the leadership of the FIS. We also said: you must rehabilitate this party. Let this party, and the others, take part with other parties in assuming the responsibility of containing the current crisis. We also called for the lifting of the state of emergency and the abrogation of the legislative decree relating to the organization of the state of emergency. We also called for the abrogation of the legislative decree 93/54 relating to public employees and which led to numerous injustices. I know that hundreds of people were relieved of their functions. Why? Because of their political affiliation. These even include people from the Ennahda Movement. There were people from the FIS but also from the Ennahda Movement. We said that it was an injustice.

These are only some of the 14 measures. The advantage of taking such measures is that they will give peace of mind back to the citizens and will enable them to feel reassured about the authorities and to have faith in their intentions and the seriousness of the dialogue. Moreover, these measures will also give the parties which are being active to ensure the success of the national dialogue, the essential substance with which they can persuade all the sides which are maybe doubtful, afraid, or reluctant to take part in the national dialogue.

There is a second condition, namely extending the dialogue to encompass all sides, including the FIS and the Front of Socialist Forces. By the way, we have made a distinction between the treatment given to the parties that were invited to the dialogue but refused and the party that was not at all invited to the dialogue. We hope to see all sides present. Why? Because we believe the best theory that can be adopted to achieve a comprehensive revival in the country, not just to contain the crisis, is the theory we have adapted and which is based on the reliance on a vast movement of society, in which all official and civilian forces interact and cooperate with one another, irrespective of their ideological and political tendencies. We have a principle: regardless of their ideological and political tendency, if people are acting within the framework of the country's constitution, they are welcome; we have no objection.

[Allaoui] Before we move away from the subject, I have a question on these measures that the authorities could take to ease the situation and ensure a return to... [pauses] Some of the demands you read have been virtually met. These include the release of Cheikh Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Cheikh Ali Djeddi, the closure of some detention centers in the south, and other measures the authorities have taken, but there has been no compromise from the other side in return.

[Djaballah] We believe the measures that are taken should be total and comprehensive. But taking half a measure today, the second half the next day, and the third part the day after tomorrow, I think this contributes to prolonging the crisis and contributes to maintaining the suspicions concerning the sincerity of the intentions and the seriousness of the dialogue.

For this reason, our request was that a range of measures be taken, to be taken in accordance with their importance. But there are measures considered to be keys to the solution, and others that would help bring about a solution. Measures are not all of the same importance, and we ask that key-measures be taken. The measures considered as key to a solution are known. The crisis today is not with the Islamic Ennahda movement, nor is it with the FLN, with the Hamas movement, or any other party. In reality, we are basic parties in the national political arena, with duties and rights, but the main party today in the pending problem is absent, and so long as it is absent, so long as the FIS is absent, it means that the factors for the success of the national dialogue are not yet there. [passage omitted]

The problem is that a concerned party, which has perhaps credibility and responsibility and is capable of being useful, is absent, namely the FIS. Therefore, its presence in the national dialogue, in our view, is the first and one of the most important factors for the success of national dialogue. I say one of the factors of the success of the national dialogue. I am convinced, thanks be to God, that this view has now become a common conviction.

[Allaoui] But Mr. Djaballah, the authorities have laid down conditions for the participation of the FIS in the dialogue. So far, the FIS has not accepted these conditions. By the same token, the FIS laid down conditions

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for its participation and until now the authorities have not met them. How can we bridge the gap between the conditions laid down by the authorities and those laid down by the FIS and so reach an agreement on the FIS participation in the dialogue?

[Djaballah] This is probably the subject that will be discussed at the next meetings, particularly the meeting of 5 September, and subsequent meetings. It is true the authorities are saying they do not object so long as there is a condemnation of violence. They are saying that if the FIS condemns violence, they are welcome. In fact, this is not the only obstacle. There is another obstacle posed by the authorities, namely the form of the FIS participation. The authorities are saying they should attend as national figures and not as a party, since the FIS has been dissolved. This is another obstacle.

We had our own view on the matter and we expressed it very clearly to the authorities in charge then and to the head of state at the meetings held on 21 and 24 August. We said the following: We truly believe that laying down this condition for a group, a leadership that still carries its weight, before taking measures that reflect good will and seriousness of the dialogue, is obstructive. Not because we doubt these men are opposed to violence, it is not that, but because these men have not been provided yet with the legal framework in which they could assume their responsibility and speak on behalf of the body and the institution and not in their own name. Now, since the FIS is dissolved, and from a legal point of view, anyone who speaks is doing it in his own name. But when the party is rehabilitated, that person is no longer speaking in his own name, but on behalf of the body. Then and only then can the various issues be discussed.

I put forward a suggestion in that respect and I said the issue of the renunciation of violence could be one of the results that the national dialogue could achieve and which could be included in the final statement.

With this assessment of the matter, I am not acting as a guardian for anybody. I am only speaking for myself and this is only an opinion that I am expressing. The authorities objected for a number of reasons, some of them legal and others constitutional. We replied to those reasons and said: The current problem today is political. It is not a legal problem, but it is essentially a political problem. Since the problem is political, it has to be solved politically.

To the second matter, which is the legal reason they gave, we said: The law, as everybody familiar with law knows, is a means to guarantee the well-being of the public and a means to serve the country's high interest. If this means is incompatible with the end, namely the country's high interest, the position is clear and the answer is also clear. The answer is the means should be dropped and the end must supersede it. The reality today is that this legal consideration runs counter to the country's high interest and this is why we asked that this means be dropped for the sake of the end. This is not acting outside the law, but it is the implementation of the law and the essence of the law.

Regarding the Constitution, we said, as everyone familiar with constitutional law knows, the text of the Constitution has a higher value than a ruling or a decision by the Supreme Court. The fact is, whether in Algeria or in any other country, if the text of the constitution is incompatible with the country's high interest, the text of the constitution must be trampled down. The text of the Constitution has been trampled down in Algeria and still is. So how could anyone accept the suspension of what is higher and refuse to annul what is lower, namely the decision of the Supreme Court. If the consideration is legal or constitutional, or whatever, we believe it is flimsy and not a strong one. The problem we are facing today is political and it needs to be treated politically and not legally.

[Allaoui] Let us assume, for instance, that FIS was allowed to return as a political party. Would it be able to control all the armed groups that currently exist, taking into account the conflicting statements issued by these sides every time?

[Djaballah] This issue does not concern me personally. It concerns FIS. As a political party in the national arena, I...

[Allaoui, interrupting] But Sir, this is...

[Djaballah, continuing] I am coming to ...

[Allaoui, interrupting] This would impede and discourage the authorities from rehabilitating FIS, because for instance, it would not be able to control the situation.

[Djaballah] Be patient, may God bless you. As a political side, I have announced a stance in the parties' conference with the authorities. I said that I refuse to interfere in the internal affairs of any party irrespective of the nature of that party's problems. I announced this when the then prime minister, Sid 'Ahmed Ghozali, wanted to enable the leadership from FIS to talk inside the conference. [Allaoui attempts to interrupt] Sorry, I took the floor and said: It was known that this party had a leadership, and its leadership refused to attend. In our view, this opinion should be respected, and as a main side in this meeting, I would not accept to be a witness to a dangerous precedent that would be consecrated in the march of the political parties in the country. We have this stance.

Thus, when I talked about FIS, I talked about it in its capacity as a party, and talked about the legitimate leadership in its capacity as the legitimate and historical leadership. The matter pertains to the legitimate leadership. When the legitimate leadership assumes its responsibility, when it is set free, a dialogue is held with it, and it wants to assume its responsibility, let it sort it own problems. If it wanted to be present in the dialogue in

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person, or if it wanted to bring others with it, it is a different issue that does not concern me personally. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] The Ennahda Movement is one of the parties that was expected to contact the legitimate leadership of the FIS in the prison of Blida, because there is, of course, another leadership. In general, I mean observers believe the Ennahda Movement, as a party, has great credibility with the FIS and in the light of your close knowledge of the FIS leadership, what could convince it to enter the dialogue?

[Djaballah] Let's talk first about the issue of meeting the FIS leadership. It is true this issue was raised and it is true the head of state said every party was free to visit the FIS leadership and meet them. Some parties were enthusiastic about this initiative, but I objected to it. Not because I do not want to meet the FIS leaders; on the contrary, I was one of the people who called for such meetings and for the information of the Algerian people. I did this when Sid Ahmed Ghozali was head of the government and when Larbi Belkhir was secretary general of the presidency of the Republic. I did ask to be allowed to visit the FIS leadership, but this demand was rejected then. In those days I proposed solutions to the crisis, but they were rejected. I warned of the very bad situation we are experiencing today, but my warnings were not listened to.

I have brought evidence with me; I have brought memorandums with me, if time allows us to read them. All of this file [shows file to Allaoui] was presented to the presidency of the republic. This is half of the statements issued by the Ennahda Movement on the issue of dialogue and the crisis and so on. All the things we had warned against did happen. [passage omitted]

This was one of the causes of the phenomenon of widespread rebellion and armed action in the country. So that is why I refused. I support the idea of going as an acceptable procedure, but not now. When I go to them I must go with something new, but what new thing is there? Also, is it reasonable that negotiations or dialogue could be held with leaders inside a prison?

If you or I, God forbid, or anyone else were in their place in prison, what would they feel? I have experienced prison more than once and know what prisoners feel. At least such prisoners should be released and put under house arrest. This is the least measure that could be taken. This will make them feel self-respect not only as citizens but as responsible men, responsible politicians who are significant in the national arena. It would lead to better discussion and provide the atmosphere for reaching a result, agreement.

[Allaoui] But Mr. Ddjaballah, why is there this focus on the FIS leadership in Blida prison, when there is a leadership that emerged from the Batna conference and which is headed by Mr Hachani?

[Djaballah] We have called for the release of all detainees and I am one of those people who have talked forcibly and at length about Abdelkader Hachani as well. I have been making a clear call for his release for more than two and a half years while he has been in prison. Why, when we know other people who called for worse than what Abdelkader Hachani called for...

[Allaoui, interrupting] No, no, no...

[Djaballah continues] ...but nobody touched them or said anything to them. I am not defending X or Y. I am speaking from the logic of truth and justice, because it is my view that the country can benefit from this logic. It is my view that a country that wants to build its policy on force, violence, and political and economic injustice, on arbitrary oppression, on a policy of gagging mouths and removing liberties, will never stand on its feet, will never get very far even if it raises thousands of slogans upon slogans. [passage omitted]

[Allaoui] I just wanted to say that I am asking why is there focus on the FIS leadership in Blida prison, when there is another leadership that was elected...

[Djaballah, interrupting] Because as I have said that it is the legitimate...

[Allaoui continues] A leadership which was elected at the Batna conference.

[Djaballah] Because it is the legitimate leadership. Go and ask Abdelkader Hachani about this subject. I do not have an answer, but I think he would tell you that they are a temporary leadership, because this was the temporary executive bureau. They would say there was a legitimate leadership that was well known. This would be their answer, and there is logic in it in my view. [passage omitted]

There are various factors in the crisis. There is what is called the ideological factor and the religious factor as well. That is why in my meetings with the authorities and the National Dialogue Commission I said we have two options. Either we want to find a radical solution to the crisis or we want only to patch the situation up in the hope that such patching up would in the future help finding a radical solution to the crisis.

If we want a radical solution, we have to identify the nature of the crisis. We did identify the nature of the crisis by saying that we are experiencing the problem of the authorities becoming very detached and distant from the people. We mean the people feel these authorities do not represent them; hence, the people do not trust the decisions and the policies drawn up by these authorities nor even the stances the authorities express. The people have doubts about anything to do with these authorities. This problem is one of a wide gap between the people and the authorities and the question is how to bridge this gap? This cannot be achieved by mere patching up, but through dealing radically with the fundamental factors in

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the crisis. Only such an approach will make the people trust the authorities and feel they represent the people.

There are at least two main factors here, the first is that the people should indeed be the source of political power; that is to say the people should have the right to choose their leaders, control and monitor them, hold them accountable and dismiss them if necessary. This can be achieved by organizing a return to the electoral process.

The government said to us that a return to the electoral process would take place when the appropriate atmosphere for it becomes available. I said to them the elections are not a result of a return of security and stability, but one of the most important means to establish stability and security. This is one of the main differences between our stance and what the authorities used to say in the past.

[Allaoui] Could there be elections in a situation where there are armed people who could influence the course of the elections?

[Djaballah] We believe if measures were taken to restore peace and tranquility, and that is an issue we are going to discuss at the 5 September meeting, as I said we believe there would be a good atmosphere that would help in dealing with the crisis the country is experiencing, I emphasize it would help.

[Allaoui] According to your statements to the media, you did contact Ali Jeddi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham. Did you see the report they have prepared regarding the current situation? Do they think that the FIS can still control the situation?

[Djaballah] Yes indeed, we contacted the two brothers more than once, but I do not want speak on behalf of any party. Although in brief I could say that I found them with encouraging good intentions, fully prepared to accept the dialogue, and solve problems through national dialogue, nevertheless both of them believe they could not contribute to the dialogue in the absence of the FIS. Their main condition is that the FIS should be rehabilitated and the imprisoned leadership should be released, because there is a party leadership, and this leadership has the right to speak in the party name. They said that their party would take part with other parties in discussion of the situation and put forward proposals on efficient and suitable solutions to the crisis when the party is rehabilitated and its imprisoned leadership is released and granted pardon. This is what they said and stressed, and it is the same thing they mentioned in their statements to the EL-HIWAR newspaper.

[Allaoui] How does the Ennahda Movement view the return to the electoral process? Do think that this should be done by organizing presidential elections? Legislative elections? How do you view it?

[Djaballah] We presented a comprehensive view on this issue to the National Dialogue Commission, we did submit it before then to the Higher State Council. This was memorandum No. 3, excuse me, there it is. In it we gave a comprehensive view of the nature of the crisis and various solutions to the crisis with regard to the various aspects of the state and society.

Regarding our view on how to build the institutions, we proposed the establishment of a transitional national council from active parties and representatives of the regime as a first phase. We proposed that such a council would, of course, pass a vote of confidence in the government and, together with the transitional government and the existing presidency of state, organize a return to legislative elections in 1994. We proposed holding legislative elections in 1994 which would lead to an elected national assembly from which a government would emanate at the end of 1994; we also proposed that early in 1995, an elected national assembly and government would oversee the organizing of presidential elections.

These are the views which we put forward in more detail, what I have just said is a concentrated resume. Now, after what happened, the National Transitional Council did not work the way we wanted. This is one of the reasons which led to us boycotting the national consensus conference and the Transitional National Council. We think that discussing these issues is premature at this stage, especially considering that we have committed ourselves to a methodology of dialogue based on discussing the conditions which would guarantee the success of the national dialogue before anything else.

There are two main points: Measures need to be taken to bring about tranquility. When such measures are taken and when all parties attend the dialogue, or at least all of the active sides, then we would discuss an agenda of national dialogue. The elections would definitely be one of the points in the agenda; we will then express our point of view clearly—it is a comprehensive view we have already prepared and we will it present in due course.

[Allaoui] If, say, a new national coalition government or a transitional government in which the parties participated was formed, would Ennahda participate or not?

[Djaballah] This point of view was put forward by the authorities. When they came to us, it was with an agenda made up of three basic points: containing the spiral of violence, participating in the government to restore civil peace, and organizing a return to the electoral process. We commented on this agenda at the meeting and it was actually our view that the agenda should only contain one point. It was as if they wanted us to participate in running a transitional period in the government. Naturally, anyone who participates in the government participates in containing the violence and prepares for a return to the electoral process. This is natural.

We said that this policy and this proposition made us feel that the same policy which was previously followed

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in dealing with the crisis was still in existence. We said many times that this policy was a failure and now reality has confirmed this. Thousands of people have been killed, thousands wounded, hundreds of enterprises destroyed, tens of thousands of hectares of forests have been burned, destroying a huge amount of forestry wealth, homes have been destroyed, hundreds of people have been sacked from their jobs, and there are all kinds of excesses which the Algerian people are experiencing today. I am not pointing the finger of accusation at any party. I am speaking about Algerians as Algerians. To me an Algerian security man, an Algerian FIS member, everyone—and of course an Algerian belonging to Ennahda—an FFS member, an RCD member, and anyone who lives in this territory is an Algerian citizen to whom Islam has guaranteed his complete rights to citizenship and his dignity as a human being. [passage omitted]

We have seen the results of the policy that was followed. Therefore, it seems to me that it would be irrational and unwise to repeat the same experience. The trouble is that this is our own experience, so how can we not learn from it? After we assessed the policy that had been adopted and the tragic consequences it had led to, we called, clearly and frankly, for a change of policy. An agreement ensued to start discussing the conditions for the success of the national dialogue. Therefore, the issue of participation in the government will be examined at a later date. If all the sides meet and discuss the issue, and realize that it is wise to form a provisional government, there is no objection. But for this to happen as a result of a unilateral decision, outside the framework of an overall solution in which all sides take part, Ennahda has a clear position about this matter. Moreover, as you and the Algerian people know, the party will be holding a congress on 7-8 September. On this occasion, the congress will discuss the statutes and also a general policy statement in which it will define its positions. The congress is sovereign.

[Allaoui] The new academic year is starting almost at the same time as the start of the congress, and we know that between 450 and 500 educational establishments have been burned down. How does the Ennahda Movement view this tragedy?

[Djaballah] I have talked about that. It seems that what I said before this question prompted you to ask this question.

[Allaoui, interrupting] No, I mean that there is a special situation as regards schools. We are talking about students and education.

[Djaballah] This is one of the manifestations of the tragedy which Algerian society is enduring. I said on more than one occasion that the situation is difficult and that the crisis is difficult and would have many ramifications. Therefore, we must tackle it with a new mentality, and not with a mentality of force, or with a mentality which excludes the main party of dialogue, or which encourages the secular tendency to continue a policy of insults and vilification of this Islamic and nationalist tendency, and call for an all-out war on it. In fact, these are irresponsible and extremely serious statements which feed the rebellion against the authorities.

The citizens can see that and they cannot accept such statements. We cannot deal with the crisis with a mentality which intensifies it or remain silent on the intensification of the phenomenon of various abuses. Not with such mentalities. This crisis needs to be treated as a whole and needs to be treated with responsibility. We should start dealing with the crisis on the basis of the moral conditions which I mentioned at the beginning of the interview.

The people are sick and tired and fed up. They want a solution. They want a solution because they want to live a dignified and free life where they can feel secure about themselves, their possessions, their religion, and their honor, where they can feel total dignity that they are Muslims and not a secular people. The secular people want to turn Algeria into a part of the West in everything. This is unacceptable. This is a form of colonization, a social colonization, which is the most dangerous form of colonialism.

My hope is that people will realize the seriousness of these various utterances and actions, and know at the same time that Islam to this people is more than a mere religion. Behind it is a civilization, history, pains, hopes, and aspirations. And if criticism was leveled against the behavior of X or Y of the people, this does not touch the religion of the nation, its culture, and history.

[Allaoui] Mr. Djaballah, allow me to return to the electoral track. There are parties which do not believe in or seek to understand the Islamic state. What would be the fate of these parties?

[Djaballah] We will kill them through freedom. We will leave it to the people to judge them, whether for or against them. We believe that for the authority to be legitimate it should have two requirements: First is the consent of the people, and the second is its adherence to the rule of God. The people is the source of political authority; it possesses the right to choose its rulers and its representatives. We also believe that political freedoms, so-called human rights, individual, public, or collective freedoms, are the main pivot around which Islamic legislation revolves.

In our conviction—and we are prepared to discuss this scientifically and objectively—the theory of rights in Islam is more direct, more comprehensive, and more balanced than in any other body of thought known to humanity until this day. [passage omitted: according to Islam, Muslims and non-Muslims, men and women, should be treated equally and have the same rights; Koranic verses]

Our misfortune is that it is not the secular parties who have got into a problem. It is we who are suffering from

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persecution and injustice. It is we who are asking to be allowed to enjoy the right to speak, the right to meet, the right to move around, the right to do things. Those who are seeing their rights threatened are not the secularists but the Islamists. Everyone calls...

[Allaoui, interrupting] But there are measures...

[Djaballah, interrupting] Everyone calls for the Islamic parties to be dissolved or for parties in general to be dissolved. Have we called for the secular parties to be dissolved? No. It is the secular parties which call for the Islamic parties to be dissolved. So whose rights are being threatened? Whose liberties are under threat? Our rights and liberties or their rights and liberties?

On the contrary, we call for the participation of everyone in the national dialogue. Everyone should be free, and it is the people who elevate the parties or bring them down. If the people want to elevate them to power, it is the people who are responsible and master; if the people want to bring them down from power, the people are responsible and master. But the parties are afraid. They know that they are strangers inside Algerian society and that the propositions which they are making are rejected by the Algerian people. So, even if they are given their freedom they would not be able to continue. That is why they demand that a comprehensive war should be waged, that there should be despotism, coercion, and injustice, so that they can live in the shadows as they used to do before. I want everyone to know this fact and be assured that it is correct.

[Allaoui] Thank you.

[Djaballah] Let them get on with it, there is no problem.

[Allaoui] Thank you Mr. Djaballah. Thus we have come to the end of the program. Thank you ladies and gentlemen for watching. We hope to meet in another program next week.

Egypt

Mubarak on ICPD, National, Regional Issues

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[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by Chief Editor 'Uthman al-'Umayr in Cairo on 3 September]

[Text] [Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, away from the noise of the population conference, what is preoccupying President Mubarak these days?

[Mubarak] We are always preoccupied with development issues in our country. It is the first issue, for which we feel it is incumbent on us to take responsibility in order to secure an adequate living standard for citizens, achieve stability for them, bolster investment, and iron out the difficulties facing it with a view to securing people's sources of livelihood. These are major matters. Perhaps you saw how Egypt was affected by the horrific wars and problems. We had no option but to find radical solutions for them. There can be no solution without determination and perseverance. And my policy is to tackle [the problems], not to evade them or be content with temporary solutions and tranquilizers. When I assumed the presidency, there were no telephone communications or other services. There was no infrastructure capable of enduring the burdens of development at a time when the population is increasing. This increase is adversely affecting efforts to provide food and job opportunities. This is in addition to the efforts to develop and modernize production methods and to create new communities.

As for the Conference on Population and Development, that is another issue. Some people in our Islamic world used the abortion and homosexuality issues as an excuse. Two or three minor issues. And left out the main topic in the conference—development.

Development is essential, because the increase in the population is linked to the achievement of growth. Disregarding development means major disasters. Look at the number of the unemployed in the world, which is at present inhabited by some 6 billion. They are increasing by 93 million every year. I believe that by 2025 3 billion will have been added to this number, making it 9 billion. What will happen then?

Are there any solutions to tackle this overpopulation? Especially as, with the continued technological advancement, job opportunities tend to decrease and reliance on scientific methods increases. And no matter how advanced the technology, there are countless difficulties regarding the achievement of better living opportunities. The unemployed will increase to reach 2.5 billion by 2050, forcing everyone to tackle this challenge to achieve progress in the area of providing job opportunities and suitable investment. Will we abandon technological advancement, or will we create job opportunities with primitive tools at a time when rapid developments are affecting both rich and poor, not just individuals, but the peoples as well, thus causing us to suffer disasters, famines, troubles, and revolutions. Those who attacked the conference did not think about its name. Its name is the "Conference on Population and Development." Some people focused on "population" and left out "development." Besides, the conference is a UN conference, not an Egyptian conference. And anyone who wants to apologize, should apologize to the United Nations. We are just hosting the conference. Egypt is hosting a conference on such a scale for the first time. And everyone has the chance of a lifetime to express their views, values, and principles. The world as a whole has read the recommendations and the agenda. And anyone who has read it should think calmly and deeply, unless their intentions are tendentious. The agenda contains numerous points needing discussion in the interests of the international community.

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As for what has been said about abortion and homosexuality, these matters were not mentioned openly. Even if some clauses have been interpreted in a certain way, Muslims and Islamic states should explain to world public opinion Islam's position on abortion. We have our own principles, which comply with the Islamic Shari'ah. And others have their views. Even the United States itself cannot take a decision on the abortion question. And it is impossible for the head of a Muslim or Christian state to take a decision violating heavenly laws. It is impossible for anyone to force us to permit abortion or other things.

I had hoped from the bottom of my heart that our Islamic world as a whole would read all the clauses. At any rate, Al-Azhar's Fatwa Committee and the Egyptian mufti read the draft recommendations and said that they contain positive and negative points. There are interpretations which could be understood in the wrong way. And of course, they are all recommendations, not binding agreements. The recommendations referred to the conference were discussed by the international community at 14 meetings. I stress to you that they are not resolutions. Although the Vatican rejects abortion completely—and our religion allows abortion in specific cases endorsed by the Shari'ah and legists—it has sent a large delegation to explain its view. We should have seized this international opportunity to explain our position and clarify our view.

When you reject [the conference] without offering a solution, it means that you are the only loser, because no one is going to listen to you. Perhaps it was an opportunity for us to explain that we are people who believe in dialogue and discussion, not—as some people portray Muslims—terrorists incapable of exercising dialogue. We must explain these matters by which tolerant Islamic is distinguished from other religions, as it gives people rights and respects them, and it also cares for children and women. The world as a whole with its media is present in Cairo to hear our Islamic voice. It is an opportunity which should not be passed by without benefiting from it as a Muslim nation.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, did you expect the uproar that accompanied the conference?

[Mubarak] We always expect that, as many of us do not read, but rely on what they hear. It is impossible for an Islamic state, first and foremost Egypt, to agree to anything that conflicts with the principles and values in which I believe. No one can impose on a religious state—Muslim, Christian, or Jewish—rules that violate its religious beliefs.

Yes, we have been accustomed to uproars, and we did expect them. Our experience with Camp David is the best proof. We will hear after the conference that their opposition changed the recommendations. And that "had it not been for the noise we made, the recommendations would not have been positive." Let me remind you, a lot will be said. We also hear that many people wished they had not hastily opposed [the conference] to avoid what happened with regard to Camp David. I tell you that we have no law that goes against the Islamic Shari'ah. How can that happen, when our Constitution stipulates that the Islamic Shari'ah is the main source of legislation. So how can I violate the Constitution. It is impossible. And even if I agreed to it—and that is impossible—no citizen will. Even family planning is voluntary. We rely on logic. We want an Islamic nation that is healthy, educated, and economically advanced in order to keep pace with world progress. It is unacceptable to be a sick, poor, and ignorant Islamic nation.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, what do you mean by linking the uproar that followed Camp David and the uproar aroused over the population conference?

[Mubarak] You reminded me of what happened with regard to the Camp David. I confirm to you that 90 percent of those who opposed the accords at the time had not read them. And those who sympathized with us could not resist the oppositionists' pressure. Everyone regrets [missing] Camp David as an agreement, as one of its points says: Israeli forces will withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza to points outside the West Bank and Gaza agreed to at the negotiations. We were surprised by the fuss that occurred about selling Palestine and the insults aimed against al-Sadat.

People now regret missing Camp David. I met some people at the time of the opposition to the agreement. I asked them whether they had read the agreement thoroughly. The Camp David agreement is a paper of principles which we managed to get out of Israel. We told the Palestinians, take this paper and develop it. Enter the negotiations, and if you do not like it, abandon it. We are imposing nothing on anyone at all, nor is there any pressing need.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, let us go back a little...would you have changed your opinion if you had known the scale of this opposition?

[Mubarak] No. Because I know the contents of the recommendations, even though they contain a minor reference to something against our our principles. But it is the chance of a lifetime to explain my position as a Muslim to the world and its leading media services, and to explain the religion's view of the issues raised and its position on the more sensitive issues preoccupying the world. I strongly cling to this opportunity to present the position of true Islam. Because Islam is the religion of all ages. It always keeps pace with man's progress and development. This conference offers the Islamic world an unprecedented opportunity to present its views on population and development issues through a rational and serious dialogue.... A similar opportunity might not be offered again, especially as it is offered on the territory of an Arab, Islamic state—Egypt.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you regret the criticisms?

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[Mubarak] Egypt is a pioneering state in the region, and it is the largest state in it. When we take the initiative and assume a pioneering role, we are bound to face problems and criticisms. But we firmly believe that we are moving on the correct path.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Excellency, do you believe that the battle against this conference inside Egypt is a political one?

[Mubarak] The situation inside the country is different. We hear good and positive views, and when we hear something that is not right, we respond to it as a state. At any rate, differing views and opposition enable us and people to realize the importance of differing and the need for dialogue. I am not worried about the internal opposition.

[Al-'Umayr] Talking of dialogue, do you, Mr. President, believe the time has come to conduct a dialogue with the extremist groups?

[Mubarak] No. The dialogue continued for 10 years; in fact, 12 years. We suspended it when the dialogue became an armed dialogue and when the killing began. Then there was no room for dialogue. We are in the right in this connection. Since these people have decided to use bullets, it means they do not want a dialogue. I know what the Islamic groups want. They want to set up a dictatorial regime. We can see what has happened in numerous states here and there, and there is no need to name these states.

The dialogue ended the moment they began to use arms, and we replied in the same manner.

[Al-'Umayr] Does that mean that you are satisfied with the security situation in Egypt?

[Mubarak] Terrorism exists throughout the world. Egypt is not an exception. We are continuing the confrontation and the resolute process, and its destruction is continuing. Crime is increasing in the world. The U.S. President himself is presenting a plan to fight crime and terrorism, as crime levels are increasing year by year to the point that $30 billion have been allocated to this issue—$7 billion for prisons alone. Spanish, British, and Italian people have been murdered in Florida and Los Angeles. The crimes committed in many states, which we do not want to name, far exceed those committed here. Because we conceal nothing, some people exploit the situation by resorting to exaggeration.

The groups trying to perform their activities in Egypt are also trying to do the same everywhere, especially in our Arab states. But dictatorial regimes deal with them in a sharp and secret manner. We have freedom of the press. We also have experience in dealing with such phenomena since before the revolution.

[Al-'Umayr] But do you not believe that among the causes of these problems is the existence of negative aspects like the lack of change and the stagnant government situation, which is creating a state of boredom among many people?

[Mubarak] Tell me who makes changes in our entire region. Those talking about change are people seeking posts.

There are people writing to me and talking about change. Some of them are seeking posts. They are numerous. It is a group of people who talk a lot and spread rumors. They say that they are nominated for ministerial posts and important responsibilities. In fact some of them attribute these claims to sources close to the president, but it is untrue.

I am looking for reform, competence, and stability. Our reform plan requires a degree of stability.

I do not want to make a change every six months. The experience of 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat with regard to change proved futile. Our policy is for ministers to take responsibility as long as they have the competence and the ability to contribute. I want a stable situation to bolster production and its continuation. Change can only be made when a contribution has ceased to be made or mistakes have been committed. So had it not been for stability in government, this progress in economic reforms would not have been achieved. I am achieving shock-proof progress. It is not a matter of changing individuals, but, rather, ideas. These matters are seen and felt by the people. We are changing regulations and laws, and this is the important thing. Because I want productive people. If they do not produce, I tell them goodbye. This government is watched by the People's Assembly. I believe that no cabinet is working as hard as the present cabinet.

[Al-'Umayr] So will there be no change in the cabinet for the next two years?

[Mubarak] I cannot tell you that. It depends on the individual's competence and his productivity.

I am a realistic man. If you produce, I appreciate your productivity. If you do not, I tell you to leave your post. This is my method. And this is what has happened throughout my years in office.

As for those who like change, they are seeking posts. And I am not going to realize the wishes of those seeking posts. All they want is to become ministers.

[Al-'Umayr] At the domestic level, are you, Mr. President, satisfied with the election process, which is normally accompanied with a low turnout—indicating weak communication between the people and the state?

[Mubarak] That is an old and inherited matter. Let me tell you that the low turnout is a normal thing in capitals and major cities. It happens in numerous major world cities, even in those in which awareness and high education exist. But outside major cities, in the countryside, the turnout is clear. We might need some time to

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increase the public's awareness of the importance of participation. I have not got a magic wand, nor can I press a button to increase the turnout in the elections. That requires time from the masses and enlightenment and activity from political parties.

[Al-'Umayr] Is the list method or the individual method better with regard to amending the electoral system?

[Mubarak] The list system does not exist in Egypt. We have the individual system. A large section of people are demanding the list system. The National Party has not expressed its opinion yet. I am watching and listening. I also read read articles written by people and jurists expressing their views. I have not yet decided on a policy in this connection. I want the process to interact in about six months or a year so that I can decide on the ideal system. Because I have no personal interests in one or the other. If I feel that the list system or the individual system is the right one, we will choose the ideal method on the basis of the outcome of the interaction among the various views and the people's satisfaction.

[Al-'Umayr] What about the election of the president of the republic? Are you satisfied with this method, and is it practical?

[Mubarak] We are a Third World state whose political, economic, and social situation is compatible with its circumstances. Our system is based on the fact that the parliament chooses, and after the candidate obtains two-thirds of the votes, he is referred to a people's referendum. There are parliaments which elect the president of the republic without a referendum, like Germany and Italy, for example. It is in Egypt's interests for the system to remain as it stands. Because the electoral process can be harmed by the involvement of money. And then scandals would begin. If we had applied another system, the process—in our society's circumstances—would have moved in the wrong direction and would have been controlled by forces whose weapon is money, not competence or experience.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, talking of the position of the president of the republic, what are the characteristics of the next president after President Husni Mubarak, after a long life, God willing?

[Mubarak] A president chosen by the people. My characteristics of the the president of the republic are that he should be serious, fair, realistic, practical, clean, frank—a man who talks to the people openly about everything and who works for the people's interests.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, there is discontent among Egyptians working abroad at the imposition of taxes on them, especially as they pay similar taxes in the countries where they are working.

[Mubarak] I am surprised by that complaint. No Egyptian whose children are left in Egypt to receive education and to benefit from subsidies does not want to contribute along with the people. It is a contribution, and I have reduced it substantially. We rely on a declaration from the expatriate. When you contribute to your country, which educated you free of charge and is looking after your children, it is a legitimate right toward your country [to contribute]. When you pay this small sum of money, you are paying it to your country which educated and trained you free of charge. And as I said, we have reduced it substantially and left room for many interpretations. If we compare ourselves with European countries and the United States, we will find that the tax commitments imposed on their citizens, even those working abroad, are much more than ours.

We want to achieve things.... Are there no services needing to be developed like telephones, roads, electricity, facilities, education, hospitals? All of these swallow up huge sums of money.

Does it harm the citizen to pay 200 pounds, more or less, a year? I very much regret that an Egyptian should accept to be described as refusing to serve his homeland, which has given him a great deal.

[Al-'Umayr] There is talk about the competence of Egyptian intelligence after the reports of its role in arresting Carlos and also its role in uncovering the terrorist operation in Oman.

[Mubarak] [interrupting] I do not want you give me a headache regarding uncovering Carlos in Sudan. Carlos was arrested, and this is the important thing! We have not been spared [the insults] of our Sudanese brothers. And there is nothing new in what happened. Egyptian intelligence is not working alone. All intelligence services work here and there and have plans and collect and exchange information and ideas.

[Al-'Umayr] What about the Oman story?

[Mubarak] [smiling] Neither this nor that. Of course, I do not conceal that we have information about Carlos, and our intelligence service deals with numerous services. We have information, and this is known.

Oman is an independent state with a powerful intelligence service. It also has a good capability which cannot be denied. When we are asked to help, we are ready. And when we hear something, we cooperate with others. We cooperate with most fraternal and friendly intelligence services. All states cooperate with one another. It is normal. With regard to Oman, they managed to uncover the operation as a result of their own capability. They had monitored the operation for a long time.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you expect similar operations in more than one Gulf state?

[Mubarak] Let me tell you, without going into details, that these fraternal states must be on their guard and be cautious of those seeking to destroy the world through extremism. If we are not on our guard and cautious, the probability will continue to exist.

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We see how the terrorists are carrying out their activities from abroad by using telephones and fax machines to send their instructions. All this is for the sake of money or false allegations. Unemployment exists in all world states. But certainly the money spent is causing all these disasters.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you believe that there will be other terrorist moves, as happened in Oman?

[Mubarak] That is possible if every state is not alert. I am talking about the Arab states in general. They must be very alert. Because these terrorist cells are linked, so security and intelligence services have to be very alert to any abnormal action and not assume there are good intentions at all.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, you spoke about the presence of Afghan Arabs in Yemen. What information do you have, and have you alerted the Yemeni Government to this issue?

[Mubarak] I told them openly. I told Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and the man is in constant contact with me. Sometimes these camps do exist but they [the authorities] know nothing about them. For example, Sudan is full of these camps. I know this. But al-Bashir is denying it, and we stress to him that these camps do indeed exist.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you expect the Sudanese Government to extradite other individuals to the West?

[Mubarak] By God, I do not know whether or not they will extradite anyone. When the recent deal took place, they reacted emotionally, attacked us, and insulted us. We did not act against them, nor did we enter their territory, as they claim. We hear some of them say that the Egyptians have seized land or that an Egyptian aircraft flew over Wadi Halfa!! Why? What is an Egyptian aircraft going to do over Sudan? Is it reasonable that we are frightened of al-Bashir or al-Turabi? First of all, no aircraft go there at all. And if that does happen, I will announce it. Second, I am certain that these allegations are completely untrue. Because if we sent an aircraft, they would not be able to detect it, for a simple reason: They have no equipment capable of detecting it. Besides, what do I want to explore in Sudan? I am not fighting Sudan. They are continuing their insults and attacks against Egypt. And I am working to persuade the Egyptian media not to reply to this attack. Because if the Egyptian media open fire on them, they will not be able to tolerate it. We said we should suspend the media campaigns, and from our side it is merely articles expressing anger at the insults aimed against us. But I cannot—nor do I have the right to—prevent anyone from writing.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, there have been reports of a message you have received from Saddam Husayn.

[Mubarak] I heard about that message from the Kuwaiti and Jordanian press. So I said I should wait: "Maybe the message is still moving between offices." When I went to meet with Shaykh Zayid, it was alleged that I discussed the alleged message with him, and a media clamor followed. So I left those involved in it to keep themselves busy with it. When I had ascertained that there was no message or anything else, I spoke to the Kuwaiti amir and told him: Your Highness, do not believe it. I told him the source of the rumor was Kuwait. Then I spoke with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd and asked him whether he believed the story. He said: No.

Is it reasonable that I would do something like that? Of course, I work openly. I found out that the entire matter was a big game to drive a wedge between Egypt and the Arab states with which I am bound by friendship. Newspapers began to ask me, so I said there was no conversation, letter, or contact. I did not talk with Shaykh Zayid about this matter. I told the press that I do not trust Saddam Husayn, nor does any state trust Saddam Husayn!!

I read a view whose writer says that Iraq acted like Israel: Israel occupied Palestinian territory, and Iraq occupied Kuwait and his intention was to occupy the rest [of the Gulf states]. So what is the difference? They are two sides of one coin.

So how can I trust Saddan Husayn after that? Besides, if I want reconciliation with Saddam—and that will not happen—am I going to do it secretly without discussing it with King Fahd, the amir of Kuwait, the Gulf states, the Sultanate of Oman, and Syria? How? A reconciliation with whom? I deal with King Fahd, who is a brother and a friend. Can that happen without consulting him? That is not my method. I do not work secretly. And if I receive something in this connection—even if I reject it—I will inform our friends of it, whether King Fahd or the other leaders, in order to put them in the picture and reach and discuss the matter with them.

[Al-'Umayr] So what are Egypt's conditions for Arab reconciliation?

[Mubarak] First of all, we support the Iraqi people. We are saddened by the conditions the Iraqi people are experiencing. This people has huge economic capabilities. They have oil, two rivers, agricultural land, water which should enable them to live in prosperity. Nevertheless, they are experiencing great hardship and are divided into three sections. But I tell President Saddam that no one wants to talk to him or trusts him. And you are telling me to conduct reconciliation. How?

I tried in King Husayn's case. And when we talk from time to time, some statements emerge to arouse feelings, despite my acceptance of the principle of reconciliation with him. You know that the Arab states forget misdeeds quickly. But King Husayn tends to remind them of it in some statements. It is a matter of time. As for what Saddam did, it is a different matter. That man occupied an Arab country and displaced its people. And which country? A country that helped him during the Gulf war

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[Iraq-Iran war]. They paid him some $19 billion. Saudi Arabia paid $27 billion. But he turned against them. Then you ask for reconciliation. It is a difficult matter to some extent.

[Al-'Umayr] Twenty-five years have elapsed since Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi assumed power. How do you view that experiment, and what is your opinion of the colonel's personality?

[Mubarak] Past circumstances involved numerous considerations. We had certain experience with Libya in the days of 'Abd-al-Nasir and al-Sadat. That period witnessed confrontations, estrangement, and so on. Al-Qadhdhafi has gained experience as a result of his dealing with events throughout these years. But the man does not work alone. Some of his advisers expose him to embarrassing situations. When the facts are put before the man, or when we contact him to discuss a certain issue, he understands the situation fully. And he is doing his utmost for the sake of his country.

[Al-'Umayr] What about Mansur al-Kikhya's abduction? Have you identified his abductors?

[Mubarak] I will tell you something: Our doors are open to Libyans entering and leaving the country. Entry and exit facilities are available. Besides, there is no proof that he was abducted in Egypt. The man did not inform us of his presence, nor did he ask for a private guard. His movements were open, and he met many of the Libyan regime's supporters and opponents. He also met with Libyan officials in Alexandria.

We provide facilities for those moving between Egypt and Libya, because we do not want to be described as tough with regard to entry and exit. The border is open and freedom of movement is guaranteed.

We have Libyan oppositionists who enjoy Egyptian protection, because we know their movements. But al-Kikhya's case is a different matter.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, did Egypt try to eliminate the tension in Moroccan-Algerian relations?

[Mubarak] The problem is the outcome of the accumulations of many years. I have experienced it since I was vice president, as I made shuttle tours between the two countries in the seventies to mend the rift. On that basis, I believe that what is between the two countries requires a ground of mutual trust.

It might take some time before that can be achieved. Nevertheless, I hope from the bottom of my heart that the two countries will reach natural and radical solutions to the problem between them. And I hope the two sides will display self-restraint and use their political wisdom to tackle their differences, in order to spare the Arab world further problems.

[Al-'Umayr] Mr. President, how do you view the situation in Algeria, and what is your position on the disagreements emerging among some states like France and the United States vis-a-vis the dialogue?

[Mubarak] I hope that the situation in Algeria will stabilize. I believe it is moving toward stability. As for the dialogue question in Algeria, it is to do with their own circumstances. The Algerian case has its own characteristics.

[Al-'Umayr] So there is no comparison between what is happening in Algeria and what is happening in the eastern states like Egypt?

[Mubarak] There is no comparison at all between what is happening in Algeria and what is happening in Egypt. The matter in Egypt is no more than some criminal hotbeds violating the law. They are under control, and we know how to deal with them.

[Al-'Umayr] What is Your Excellency's opinion of the call for lifting the Arab boycott [of Israel] without the full completion of the peace process?

[Mubarak] When we talk about the Arab boycott frankly, it does not exist in practice. The decision exists, but in reality the boycotted companies are present in one way or another in the Arab states. The call for lifting the boycott is merely a formal procedure. Nevertheless, the decision not to lift the boycott will continue until peace efforts are completed fully and make progress. We are not opposed to abolishing the decision. But we are taking account of the situation on the other Arab tracks.

[Al-'Umayr] Do you believe that there is progress on the Syrian track?

[Mubarak] Yes. I believe that the trust factor is strengthening between Syrian and Israel. It is an important matter, and the two sides need time to prepare public opinion in both countries.

[Al-'Umayr] Your Excellency, when do you expect that to happen?

[Mubarak] I expect that to happen soon...within months. And I hope that the two sides will reach acceptable solutions before the end of the year. If a solution is delayed, it will be an unacceptable matter.

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Morocco

Tunisia Criticized Over Repatriation of Moroccans

LD0809185594 Rabat MAP in English 1319 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 08 (MAP)—A Moroccan authorized source said the behavior of Tunisian authorities was inacceptable during the repatriation of Moroccans stranded in Tunis after Algeria closed its land borders with Morocco. Moroccan authorities dispatched a boat to repatriate the Moroccans coming from Tunisia or Libya and blocked in Tunisia, unfortunately and surprisingly, Tunisian authorities embarked on the boat over 180 Moroccans that they presented as illegal residents, the same source said adding that the Tunisians took this measure without consulting Moroccan consular services and thus delayed the embarkation operation.

The 'CARIBIA VIVA' car ferry which carried 450 Moroccans is expected to reach the port of Tangiers on September 9. A plane was also dispatched to repatriate the remaining 150 stranded Moroccans. The operation was carried out by the Hassan II foundation of Moroccans living abroad, the Moroccan navigation company 'COMANAV' and the air carrier 'RAM'.

Trade Impact of Algerian Border Closing Reviewed

LD0809194094 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] As Morocco repatriates 600 of its nationals stuck in Tunisia and Libya following Algeria's closure of its border with Morocco, the Moroccan companies are doing their sums. They believe that the constraints placed on people and consequently on trade relations will have only a limited effect. Mouna El Bana:

[El Bana] In the view of the experts, in fact, trade between the two countries was not extensive. Algeria, they point out, was only 12th on the list of Morocco's customers, with less than two percent of its total exports, and 20th in terms of its suppliers, providing slightly more than one percent of its imports.

According to the latest known figures, those available for 1993, Morocco imported goods from Algeria to a value of slightly more than 1 billion dirhams—about 600 million French francs—while its exports to Algeria came to 83 million dirhams. Having said this, even though the figures are very modest, two sectors are going to be badly affected by the closure of the borders—the pharmaceutical sector and the energy sector: 132 million dirhams, in other words 18.25 percent of the total exported by Morocco, is the figure for pharmaceutical products sold to Algeria. Algeria for its part supplied gas and electricity to Morocco amounting to 73 percent of the total exported.

The Moroccans are taking it all quite calmly. According to the energy minister, Morocco, which has several suppliers, should not have any trouble in replacing Algeria.

Armed Assailants Not Linked With Islam

LD0709131994 Rabat MAP in English 1258 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 07 (MAP)—Moroccan authorities are ruling out any link between members of the armed group arrested following the attack on August 24 against a hotel in Marrakech and 'components of the Moroccan society'.

Members of the armed group arrested recently have no link of whatever sort either organizational, or organic, or sentimental with components of the Moroccan society.

As to the approach which tends to give to the case a religious cover after propaganda literature similar to the one used by religious groups was found with some persons arrested in France, the authorities say the persons arrested in Morocco have nothing to do with Islam. 'They do not even speak Arabic fluently and do not know the basic Islamic principles'. Besides, pornographic pictures were found with some of them. Following the attack last month of a hotel in Marrakech and the killing of two Spanish tourists, the Moroccan police arrested two Algerian-born French nationals, a Moroccan-born French and a Moroccan living in France. It also seized weapons used in the Marrakech attack and found an arms cache in a village near Taza.

King Hassan Receives Saudi Foreign Minister

LD0609214794 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpt] This evening at the royal palace, His Majesty King Hassan II received His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, the prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted on other attendees]

Thailand's Crown Prince Begins Official Visit

LD0709215694 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, crown prince of Thailand, arrived in our country today on an official visit which will last several days. [passage omitted]

UAE President Arrives on Private Visit

LD0809183094 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, arrived in Morocco on a private visit this afternoon. [passage omitted]

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Sudan

Speaker Discusses Peace Efforts With U.S. Official

EA0809203694 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1500 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, has met with U.S. diplomat (David Cheyney), the director of the eastern and central Africa bureau in the U.S. State Department. Khalifah briefed the U.S. diplomat on the efforts being exerted by the Sudanese Government to realize peace in solving the southern problem. Efforts for maintaining peace from within were explained in detail, as well as Sudanese Government plans to form a new peace mechanism.

Al-Bashir on Relations With Egypt, al-Turabi

MM0909102294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 4

[Interview with President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir by Sawsan Abu-Husayn; place and date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Husayn] Do you believe that your initiative to suspend media campaigns between Egypt and Sudan is sufficient as a start to contain the differences?

[Al-Bashir] I announced the importance of suspending media campaigns because of the Egyptian media's exaggeration in portraying the relationship between the two countries. It is a sensitive point, because escalating it would lead to unjustifiable deteriorations, especially as the Sudanese side did not initiate the problem. Every action upon which we embarked was a reaction to what Egypt had done. We spoke a lot in this connection, but there was no response. And President Mubarak recently announced the suspension of the media campaigns.

As for the provocative measures the Egyptian media is talking about, they require a joint committee between the two countries to clarify the positions. We have always called for that.

[Abu-Husayn] Why don't you announce the release of the Egyptians held in Sudanese prisons?

[Al-Bashir] They include people who are sentenced in criminal cases. I invite Egypt in this connection to send a legal committee to have a look at the files of these cases and to ascertain that our measures are not outside what is commonly accepted and the stipulations of the law. Egypt also should take steps to clear the air, especially as Sudan has not wronged it in any way.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, what are the real causes of the differences between Egypt and Sudan, especially given that the Hala'ib area has always been there but the crisis over it emerged only recently?

[Al-Bashir] Actually there are no differences between Egypt and Sudan. We stress the importance of the relations. Historical facts confirm this. Egypt is Sudan's strategic rear, and vice versa. Suffice it to say that when Israel attacked Egypt in 1967 and Israel managed to impose its air control over Sinai, Egypt placed what was left of its aircraft in Khartoum. Even Egyptian ships stayed in Port Sudan. And later the War College was transferred to Khartoum. This clearly confirms Sudan's importance to Egypt. Even when we sensed Egypt's need for war, we agreed to provide a reserve when the High Dam was being built. And the Sudanese people were generous and offered what they offered to Egypt voluntarily.

After the revolution, there was a close relationship between the two countries. Egypt supported the National Salvation Revolution. But differences began to emerge in some political positions. We believe that differing views should not harm relations. The problem started following Sudan's position on the second Gulf war, our opposition to foreign intervention, and the failure to condemn Iraq. This is in the knowledge that we did not object to Kuwait's legitimacy and its right to defend itself with Arab and Islamic forces. The Egyptian media campaign has begun since that day.

Then the Hala'ib problem began to be stirred up by the Egyptian side. We declared our position and said that Sudan believes in Arab unity, and that the Sudanese people have nothing to do with the border question. Then Abu-Ramad was attacked by Egypt, and an apology was made and the action was described as an isolated incident. But later new forces were sent to the triangle. Their number increased with the deployment of U.S. troops in Somalia. We even wondered at the time why this was happening at the same time.

We also announced in Sudan that we would not engage in a war with Egypt. We just took some measures, to which Egypt retaliated, namely by hosting the Sudanese opposition, keeping the Sudanese pilot, and arresting some Sudanese figures.

[Abu-Husayn] The striking thing is that you talk about Arab unity and the importance of clearing the Arab air, while Sudan's relations with some states, first and foremost Egypt, are not proceeding normally. Why?

[Al-Bashir] We always call for eliminating tension and differences among the brothers. We always work speedily to stop any deterioration in Arab relations. And we urge everyone to transcend the border question imposed on us, Arabs, It is the problem of the age. I previously said that the relationship with Egypt is strategic, and we must in the end succeed in eliminating all the differences.

[Abu-Husayn] But it seems that the Salvation [Revolution] and its officials in Sudan have left part of the decisionmaking for the Islamic Front, whose role has grown to the point that it seems there is another authority in control of everything. What is your opinion

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of what is being said, namely that al-Turabi is the regime's spiritual guide, and that that is the cause of tension in relations with Egypt?

[Al-Bashir] The National Salvation Revolution emerged when Sudan was suffering from numerous problems, most importantly the rebel movement's control of many areas. And there was no clear view of the peace process with the south. There were also considerable economic problems. Nevertheless, it managed to overcome many of these problems. It liberated the southern territory and drew up practical solutions to the problem with the rebels, like participation in power, fair distribution of wealth and development, and defining the relationship between the state and religion. But we have not managed to actually implement these steps because the movement tends to send delegations not authorized to make decisions to help achieve a solution. Although we have recaptured many positions, we are committed to negotiation and to a peaceful solution. So no one can prove that the Salvation Revolution has not shouldered its responsibility fully.

As for what is being said about al-Turabi, he is an Islamic thinker, and the revolution kept him in custody like al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani was released, then al-Turabi after that. And since his release he has not carried out any action against us. He supports the Salvation Revolution, but he holds no official position. So he is not a spiritual guide or anything else, nor has he any intention of launching an Islamic revolution. We respect the revolution in Iran, because it was one of the first revolutions to raise a clear Islamic slogan. But Iran has its own circumstances and Sudan has its own.

Over 45 Camps for 'Terrorist Groups' Reportedly Exist

NC0809205794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 9

[From the "Brothers" page]

[Text] Informed Sudanese military sources have reported that the number of camps opened by the Sudanese authorities to shelter Arab, Asian, and African terrorist groups has exceeded 45 in all provinces of Sudan. The largest camp is located in the al-Hassaniyah Mountains in the city of Shandi, where a large number of Palestinians, Egyptians, Algerians, some Asians, and Africans reside.

The Sudanese Government recently moved the camp of the Eritrean Jihad Movement from the Qawz Rajab area following a division within the group's ranks. This prompted the Sudanese authorities to detain a number of the Eritrean Jihad Movement's members, including the group's amir, who is said to have dissented from the Ansar al-Sunnah al-Muhammadiyah [advocates of Muhammedan tradition] group.

People living in the Riyad and Cooper areas have noticed that most foreigners living in the two neighborhoods have disappeared for unknown reasons following the arrest of Carlos.

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Oman

'Diplomatic Sources': No Iranian Links to 'Extremists'

JN0709183094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani in Muscat]

[Excerpt] Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Salalah yesterday evening. Velayati conveyed to the sultan a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on bilateral relations, the situation in the Gulf, the Middle East peace process, and issues concerning the Islamic world.

Diplomatic sources in Muscat ruled out any connection between Iran, which has strong and cordial relations with Oman, and the extremist fundamentalist organization which was discovered in Oman three months ago and whose members will stand trial soon. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Paper Reports Security Force Crack Down on 'Extremists'

JN0809111294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah]

[Text] Aden—Aden security forces have continued their large-scale manhunt of extremists, who, according to Sanaa, belong to the "al-Jihad" organization in Yemen. Security sources told AL-HAYAH that "security forces, supported by Central Security units and back-up forces sent by Sanaa on Saturday [3 September], at dawn yesterday cracked down on extremists in al-Qallu'ah area in the Aden Governorate after the extremists had seized a police station."

The sources added that "clashes with automatic weapons and grenades took place between the security forces and the extremists until the morning. Security forces then gained control of the situation and arrested a number of armed persons, while others fled to the mountains surrounding the area."

Eyewitnesses said that "the police station in the Crater area was attacked at dawn yesterday by extremists who were hiding in the mountains following Saturday's fierce clashes with security forces." They added that "in their attack the extremists used RPG's and machine guns, waking up the area residents at dawn."

The security sources did not report any casualties in the attack on the police station, the first in Aden since the beginning of the large-scale crackdown on extremists. Credible military sources said that "the army troops, stationed along the road linking Aden with the Governorate of Abyan since Saturday, repelled large groups of extremists who tried to enter Aden from Abyan to settle scores with the security forces that defeated them in Aden."

These sources told AL-HAYAH that "the extremist groups were equipped with various weapons, including heavy arms. They were estimated at 200 elements who were mounted on jeeps." They said that "the army troops fired in the direction of the extremists, thus compelling them to return to Abyan."

AL-HAYAH has learned from official sources in Sanaa, which were contacted from Aden yesterday that "the Interior Ministry in collaboration with the Defense Ministry prepared a plan to pursue the extremists in the governorates of Aden, Abyan, and southern Lahij. The plan was put in force in Aden last Saturday."

In another development, an official source in the supreme committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping issued the following statement: "The Yemeni Reform Grouping followed with great concern the regrettable incidents in the heroic city of Aden on Friday and Saturday. These incidents were sparked by some irresponsible elements that misunderstand religion and focus on marginal issues at the expense of major ones. These elements never spelled out a serious and clear-cut position against the practices of the Socialist Party, which are contrary to religion and ethics, during the entire period of its hegemony. Today these elements direct their efforts and weapons against the graves of harmless dead people. The Yemeni Reform Grouping strongly condemns these erroneous practices, which are far from the essence and values of Islam, and which only seek to sow sedition and preoccupy people and society with marginal issues.

"We are quite aware that the Yemeni Socialist Party and the forces which joined its ranks and pushed it toward fabricating the crisis, triggering war, and declaring secession in a bid to fragment the Yemeni society and its unity and tarnish its bright image, are the same forces that instigated the initiators of this new sedition to carry out these practices. This is part of their plan to destabilize the country and sow sedition. What happened in Aden is quite unreasonable and cannot be committed by anyone aware of the Islamic shari'ah.

The Yemeni Reform Grouping, while condemning these practices, calls on the state to immediately uncover the culprits, clarify the truth to society and the world, and put a speedy end to such practices that serve the aims of those conspiring against the unity, security, and stability of Yemen.

Nationalist, Liberation Fronts Said Seeking New Ties

MM0809134294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Hammud Munsir: "Reports of Southern Resistance Alliance Between Liberation and Nationalist Front"]

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[Excerpt] Sanaa, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The High Committee of the Yemeni Reform Grouping decided at a meeting held under Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, to hold the party's first general conference in Sanaa 13-16 September.

Political sources believe that the decision to hold the conference at such speed coincides with the pressure exerted to introduce comprehensive changes to the draft constitutional reforms to reinforce the Reform Grouping's positions in power before the Socialist Party reorganizes its ranks inside the country after the election of its new leadership.

Observers in Sanaa believe that the Reform Grouping's conference is aimed at providing political support for its armed units in Aden and the southern governorates, which are in a state of confrontation with the People's Congress forces there, in a conflict over power and influence to end any presence for the Socialist Party and to occupy its positions.

Meanwhile AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that consultations are being conducted inside and outside Yemen among elements from the Nationalist Front and the Liberation Front, the two organizations that launched armed resistance against British colonialism in southern Yemen in the sixties, to form a new alliance that will espouse the southern view in the Yemeni conflict and launch an armed resistance campaign, according to what sources in Yemen told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London over the telephone. [passage omitted]

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'Aziz Analyzes 'Jewish Lobby,' Embargo, U.S. Policy

JN0709073894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Report on "analysis" by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz published by AL-THAWRAH on 7 September]

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Sep (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz has refuted allegations about contacts between Iraq and the Zionist entity and on links between these contacts and the issue of lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq.

In an analysis, which represents his own personal opinion on these allegations, published in AL-THAWRAH today, Tariq 'Aziz says: The allegations on contacts between Iraq and the Zionist entity are without foundation. There is no practical basis for assuming that such contacts may help lift the embargo imposed on Iraq.

The deputy prime minister stresses: The Zionist entity has no interest in seeing an end to the embargo imposed on Iraq. Neither did it have any interest in seeing and end to the war between Iraq and Iran. From the viewpoint of the United States and the Zionist entity, the continued embargo will help further weaken Iraq, and this is the vital objective of both parties.

He says the common objective of the United States and the Zionist entity is to see the entire Arab homeland weak—politically, militarily, and economically—and fragmented.

He stresses that the issue of lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq is primarily an Iraqi issue. He says that Iraq's political, economic, and social steadfastness; its leadership's and people's adherence to the national principles; and the fact that they have proven tangibly that the objectives of the U.S. Administration are impossible to realize are the reason behind the change in the position of the other countries that used to share the same positions and objectives as the United States. These, he says, are the same reasons that will cause a change in the U.S. position.

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz explains that there has been a recent growth in claims of alleged meetings and contacts between Iraqi and Israeli officials. The explanation or justification given to these alleged meetings and contacts is that Iraq is trying to use them to change the U.S. position, which has become the main stumbling block impeding an end to the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq after Iraq has fulfilled all the commitments stipulated in the UN resolutions concerning the embargo against it.

'Aziz says: What is the truth about these allegations? What is the truth about the link between contacts with "Israel" and the possibility of changing the U.S. position on lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq? It is useful to recall that the allegations on contacts between Iraqi and "Israeli" officials are not new. Such claims were circulated in the 1980's. The explanation or justification then was that "Israel" might play a role in ending the Iraq-Iran war, or that Iraq may get "Israeli," and consequently, U.S., support to enable it to end the war with Iran. At that time, there was a problem and there was allegedly a role for "Israel" in ending it. Subsequent events proved that such claims were false. Now, we have the issue of the embargo imposed on Iraq and the U.S. position, which constitutes a principal stumbling block impeding its removal. Many people say: The decision to lift the embargo is at the hands of the United States, and the U.S. decision makers are in the hands of the Jewish lobby and, hence, "Israel." Therefore, these same people argue, if you want to change the U.S. decision you will have to get to the Jewish lobby, and the only way to do that is via "Israel" or by securing "Israel's" approval. This is the logic we are hearing now, and is the reason or the explanation given by those who are circulating reports of alleged contacts between Iraqi and "Israeli" officials.

He adds: On this issue, I wish to explain my personal view:

1. I am not one of those analysts, writers, or politicians who agree fully with the notion that U.S. political decisionmaking is in the hands of the Jewish lobby in the United States. Yes, I realize that this lobby plays a very influential role in formulating U.S. policy, first, toward the Arab homeland, and, second, toward the surrounding area. However, I think this lobby is exercising this role because the establishment in the United States—the administration, the Congress, executives, businessmen, the Pentagon, and the intelligence community—want such a role and consider it part of their political tools. This fact does not mean there will be no secondary contradictions, which may occur occasionally between the objectives and methods of this lobby and the objectives and methods of the establishment in the United States. Nor does it mean there will be no critical contradiction or conflict between this lobby and certain parts of the establishment. This is possible. The establishment in the United States has within itself contradictions and various power centers and pressure groups. This, however, does not alter one basic fact; that the Jewish lobby in the United States is part of the establishment and not a foreign power exercising pressure and influence. As long as the United States has interests and strategies in the Arab homeland and the surrounding area, "Israel," and, consequently, its agents and supporters inside the United States, are an inseparable part of these interests and strategies.

The United States and Israel have common objectives of seeing a politically, militarily, and economically weak and fragmented Arab homeland. They are working together to realize these objectives. Each is using its own tactics, which are related to its own resources, position, and circumstances. Because of the different methods and the partial contradictions that happen occasionally

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between the two parties, some Arabs have the illusion that the United States and "Israel" have different objectives, and that the poor United States is victim to the very powerful, and devious Jewish lobby.

Tariq 'Aziz adds: Those who are well versed in the relations between the Zionist Movement and the Western countries will realize a fact that those Arabs ignore—that the Jewish lobby has always been effective in countries with broad-ranging objectives in the Arab homeland and the region around it. When Britain was the major colonial power in the Arab homeland and the region, the Jewish lobby there was very strong. Its influence on Britain's political decisionmaking decreased later, when circumstances curtailed the British objectives and interests in the region. During the Algerian revolution in the 1950's, France was the Jewish lobby's paradise. But this lobby lost much of its role and influence on French decisionmaking when France, under De Gaulle and his allies, reformulated France's policies and methods in the region. When London and Paris were the center of Zionist activities, these Zionist activities did not have any important impact in Washington. The Jewish lobby moved to Washington, becoming an essential force there, when the United States decided after World War II to take over the British and French roles in the Arab homeland and the area surrounding it, using its own methods and means.

2. The Jews in the United States and "Israel" know well that the Arabs who deal with them do not do so out of love. Such feelings are absent between the two sides for well-known reasons. When this or that Arab deals with the Jewish lobby in the United States or with "Israel", he does so out of compulsion or weakness. The Jews in the United States or in "Israel" are not so naive as to help those Arabs who deal with them out of their weakness or to assist them in ending the circumstances which forced them to deal with the Jews. Logic says, and "Israel" and the Jews in the United States know this, that so long as these Arabs have come to us out of compulsion or weakness, then we have to keep them in a situation that will keep them weak and forced to deal with us.

Tariq 'Aziz adds: This is not a vicious political ideology which seeks to harm U.S. Jews or the "Israelis". It is the upshot of the reality of the dealings Arab parties have had with the Jewish lobby in the United State and with "Israel" over many years. Let us take Egypt's case as an example. Al-Sadat dealt with the Jewish lobby in the United States and became one of its stars. He dealt with "Israel" and solved problems with it on a bilateral level, or so he believed, in the hope that the United States and Israel would help Egypt out of its economic dilemma. More than 15 years have passed, and how do we see Egypt faring? Is it in a better economic situation than what it was in the early seventies, before al-Sadat opted for that course? No one can say that it is in a better situation. Egypt has been going downhill economically since that day, not to mention the social and security deterioration which has reached its peak.

3. Obviously, Israel has no interest in seeing an end to the embargo imposed on Iraq. Neither did it have any interest in seeing and end to the war between Iraq and Iran. From the viewpoint of the United States and Israel, the continued embargo will help further weaken Iraq, and this is the vital objective of both parties. The continuation of the war between Iraq and Iran also served Israel's vital objectives. However, there is another reason, which is not very essential at the current time, for circulating claims on alleged contacts between Iraq and Israel. There is concern among the Israeli circles, which reflects on Jewish quarters, about the prospects for the future.

'Aziz says: Israel, which achieved great advantages in the balance of powers in the region after the aggression against Iraq and which employs these advantages in the so-called peace process, understands, with more depth and intelligences than that of the U.S. Administration, that the Arab regimes which joined the aggression against Iraq—and which, in general, are allies of the United States and constitute, indirectly, part of the guarantees for the current Israeli power—are now weaker than they were before the aggression, and are facing serious economic, social, political, and security crises. Some of these regimes may even witness a major change in a climate in which the activities of the Islamic religious societies are growing. This activity is also growing inside the occupied Palestinian territory itself.

These Jews who are concerned about the future are themselves—and probably with help from some Arabs and others—making ideas, plans, and proposals which, from my viewpoint, lack any cohesion or integration at the current time. Such ideas and proposals speak of hope for an Iraqi role in the so-called peace process, based on the notion that Iraq has stood fast despite the difficult conditions, and this is true; that it is a regional power which cannot be overlooked, and this is also true; and that conditions in the region cannot be straightened without giving Iraq an important role to play. However, those who propose such ideas are not among the decisionmakers in Israel or the Jewish lobby in the United States.

On the other hand, some Arabs have gone through the experience of the so-called peace process and now find themselves in difficult circumstances, and even a crisis, and wish to make others join them in that condition. Some of them want Iraq in particular to join under the pretext of helping it end the embargo, and the aim is to put everyone in the same condition and on the same roof.

For these reasons, as well as other basic reasons related to the Iraqi leadership's principles and course, which confirm that it has never adopted devious methods in its

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relations with others, and because it believes that fairness and clarity provide the primary weapon to achieving the national and pan-Arab objectives and interests, there is no foundation to the allegations on contacts between Iraq and Israel. Putting all principles and conduct aside, there is also no practical basis to assume that such contacts could help lift the embargo against Iraq. The question remains: How can the U.S. position, which opposes an end to the embargo imposed on Iraq, be changed? How can the embargo be ended without appeasing the United States? On this point I wish to put the following views and remarks:

The United States is the leading force behind the blockade, which has been imposed against Iraq since 6 August 1990. It was also the leading force in the military aggression against it, and it remains the main stumbling block impeding the removal of the blockade. It has one clear objective: To weaken Iraq. It also wishes to see its nationalistic leadership and regime replaced so that it can bring in an agent regime that would execute its objectives in the region, just like other well-known regimes.

As long as the U.S. Administration, or some of its influential quarters, think that such objectives can be achieved, it certainly will not change its current policy, which obstructs the removal of the blockade imposed on Iraq. However, the U.S. Administration, particularly the rational quarters within it, has reached a clear conclusion, which it has not acknowledged yet; that the hopes to change the nationalistic leadership and regime in Iraq are unattainable, despite all the efforts of the United States and its allies in the region, as well as their agents who carry Iraqi nationality; and despite the funds they spent and their unparalleled propaganda and misinformation campaigns. This conclusion was seen more clearly by the United States' Western partners who joined it in that war against Iraq, who entertained the same hopes of changing the leadership and regime in Iraq, and who, until recently, joined it in these efforts and attempts. This means that one of the two major objectives of the U.S. Administration has failed. Now the second—weakening Iraq—remains.

Tariq 'Aziz went on to say: The United States and its western partners shared the common objective of weakening Iraq through military aggression and the imposition of some UN Security Council resolutions on it. However, the U.S. insistence now on weakening Iraq through its determination to maintain the embargo on it is purely a U.S. objective which is not shared by the partners which participated with it in the war and in passing the UN Security Council resolutions. This is an important point. From the perspective of their national interests, these partners want Iraq to reassume its natural position so that it may resume economic and trade dealings with them. They also believe that weakening Iraq in the manner the U.S. Administration wants is a negative objective that lacks any cogent bases when viewed against the backdrop of western interests in general. The difference in the analysis of the situation, as well as the national interests of the western partners of the United States, is behind the disparity in their stands at the UN Security Council and outside it concerning the question of maintaining the embargo on Iraq. These partners, who are more experienced and know more about the affairs in the region believe that the perpetuation of the current U.S. policy will harm western interests in view of the many negative factors which exist in the region and which become more acute with time, factors we have mentioned earlier. Without announcing it, they describe this U.S. policy as negative. Such a stand is echoed by some circles within the ruling U.S. establishment and by some of the U.S. media.

2. [number as received] I was, and I am still, against the view that U.S. will in the new international situation and in the Security Council is absolute. I also reject the opinion of those who say that nothing will happen if America does not believe in it. This is the view that prevailed recently before and after the aggression against Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz added: America is the strongest and most influential country in the world. Despite this, it cannot impose its will on other countries the way it likes. The events of previous years prove this. First, its experience with Iraq, which is an advanced example of steadfastness, proves this. Also, its experience with China, Russia, Yugoslavia, Somalia, Cuba, Haiti, Vietnam, as well as other political and economic cases also prove this. I do not exaggerate nor say for propaganda purposes that lifting the blockade on Iraq is in the first place an Iraqi issue. In other words, Iraq's political, economic, and social steadfastness, as well as the adherence of its leadership and people to the national constants—and the fact that it has proved with tangible reality that the objectives of the U.S. Administration cannot be achieved—were behind the change in the stands of the other countries which previously shared America's stands and objectives. This also will change the American stand. This does not mean that the responsible diplomatic work must be ignored, because diplomacy is a required means under all circumstances. Even under the circumstances of hot wars diplomacy has a role to play. However, diplomacy is not the basic means in tackling this case and similar ones. It is an unavoidable auxiliary factor, however it is not the starting point or the decisive factor.

The present mission of Iraqi diplomacy is to clarify facts to the Security Council member states in particular and the international community in general, and to eliminate the technical and legal pretexts being used by the United States to cover its tendentious political position so that this role will be completely exposed to all and thus the U.S. position will be isolated from the positions of important states that have no tendentious political aims against Iraq whether within or outside the Security Council. I think considerable progress has thus far been made. Efforts should be made within the coming period to continue this mission.

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Tariq 'Aziz said the situation will become much clearer in the near future and important states within and outside the Security Council, which are greatly harmed by the embargo on Iraq, can no longer find convincing technical and legal reasons or pretexts to continue this embargo. These states sought in various ways to receive compensation for the harm inflicted on them. However, the compensation some of them have obtained is no longer sufficient, and the harm continues.

During the past period, these states expressed their dissatisfaction with the continuation of the siege in various ways and degrees. They are expected to continue to express this position and its relation with their national interests over the coming period. In my opinion, it will not be long before a confrontation—not necessarily a hot or acute confrontation—will take place between these states—which are numerous—and the United States, whose objection to lifting the embargo no longer has legal or technical covers to use as pretexts. Then there will be two possibilities, either the United States will change its position—and this will not be new as the U.S. stands keep changing—or the present administration, due to reasons connected with its weakness, hesitation, and shortsighted domestic calculations, will pursue its intransigent position and, consequently, there will be a crisis.

Concluding his analysis, the deputy prime minister said: We have to wait for the results over the coming short period. However, from a position of responsibility, I can say that we do not have to fear the crisis. We do not want or seek it, but if the United States insists on its intransigent stand, the crisis will be inevitable. I am confident that our position in it will be strong. Continuing steadfastness and adherence to constants will lead to detente.

Baghdad Said To Endorse Document Recognizing Kuwait

MM0809131094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Khalil Matar and 'Adnan Husayn: "Tariq 'Aziz Carrying 'Offer' to United Nations: Iraqi Document Recognizing Kuwait but Ignoring Demarcation"]

[Excerpt] New York, London—Diplomatic sources at the United Nations have expressed their belief that Iraq could embark on the required recognition of Kuwait and the new border with it within about a month. They added that this recognition will not be conditional—as it was in the past—on a definite pledge from the Security Council to set a date for lifting the economic sanctions imposed on Baghdad.

In London, Arab diplomatic sources have stressed that the Iraqi Government has actually endorsed a document in which it officially recognizes Kuwait as an independent, sovereign state. But the sources said that the document will not help Baghdad to prompt the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution easing the sanctions imposed on Iraq since its occupation of Kuwait in August 1994, because it does not include a clear stipulation approving the new Iraqi-Kuwaiti border.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who has arrived in New York to participate in the Security Council meeting next week to review the sanctions, will submit this document if he feels that the question of recognizing Kuwait is the only obstacle to easing the sanctions, especially with regard to lifting the ban on Iraqi oil exports to international markets. [passage omitted]

Parliamentary Talks Held With Thai Delegation

JN0809162694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Sep (INA)—Parliamentary talks between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Thai Parliament opened here today.

Dr. Safa' Salih, head of the Foreign Relations Committee at the National Assembly, headed the Iraqi side to the talks, while the Thai side was headed by Krasae Chanawong, head of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Thai Parliament. The two sides reviewed ways of promoting cooperation between the two friendly countries in the political, cultural, and economic fields. They also discussed ways of supporting Iraq to end its people's suffering resulting from the continued unjust economic embargo in view of Iraq's implementation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

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Clinton Informs Rabin of Haiti Invasion Plans

TA0909072294 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] U.S. President Bill Clinton last night telephoned Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to advise him, as he had other leaders, of military action the U.S. Administration was planning in Haiti.

It has been learned that Rabin expressed support for the U.S. action plans and hoped that U.S. troops participating in the operation would suffer no casualties.

Diplomats at the Israeli Embassy in Washington were summoned to the U.S. State Department for a briefing on the American plans last night. Preliminary information that reached Jerusalem last night indicates that the United States intended to launch the Haiti operation as soon as today.

Several weeks ago the United States suggested that Israel dispatch troops for the UN peacekeeping force in Haiti. It was decided at a meeting held by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin that Israel would agree to send "humanitarian" aid, if required, after the invasion to the island.

[Writing on page A1 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 9 September, correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar adds: "In his telephone conversation with Rabin, Clinton asked for Israeli participation in the multinational task force the United States was forming to keep peace on the island after the invasion."]

Commentary on U.S. Pressure in Relations

TA0809155594 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Sep 94 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "The Compelling Protocols"]

[Text] Washington—Soon Bill Clinton will be the first president in American history to appoint a Jew as a U.S. ambassador to the Jewish state. And if this deviation from the rule that a Jew is unfit for this position did not suffice, Clinton decided to send to Tel Aviv a man whose name has been for years synonymous with the pro-Israeli lobby in Washington. One would be hard put to find a U.S. official who cares about Israel's security and well-being more than Martin Indyk. The Clinton administration has raised the U.S.- Israeli relationship to new heights. A joke being passed around Washington says that any future president who appoints a gentile as ambassador to Israel will be suspected of anti-Semitism. On a more serious note it is being said that it will be difficult to call Indyk an anti-Semite when he remonstrates with the Israeli Government over conduct incompatible with the U.S. Administration's expectations.

The latter possibility is not an unlikely figment of the imagination. There are some Israelis, including men of high rank in title or wealth, who take the Protocols of the Elders of Zion seriously, who have embraced the anti-Semitic myth that a Jewish mafia runs the world, and that most of all, it runs America. This myth has contributed to the grand image various nations have of Israel's power, an image which has become one of Israel's most important political assets. What prompted King Hassan of Morocco to open an interests office in Tel Aviv was the largely justified conviction that it will promote his country's interests in Washington. Blessed be the king, the quarrel between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Rafi Edri over copyright notwithstanding. Yet this does not apply to the Iraqi arena—and you can ask Indyk, the father of double containment (Iraq and Iran simultaneously).

The Americans do not doubt Rabin's repeated assurances that there is no secret official channel for contacts between Israel and Iraq. Furthermore, they do not take an overly serious view of "noises" made by the Israeli "Iraqis," Moshe Shahal and Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer with the encouragement of President 'Ezer Weizman. It is being said in Washington that unfortunately (or fortunately?), the Arabs do not believe that a cabinet member can send (or say he did) an arms dealer to conduct secret contacts with an enemy state's representative in a bid to gain the attention of a leading reporter who would give him a prominent headline. His remaining minister proves that the prime minister was in on the business. They think it is more plausible that the Israelis and Americans are again conspiring to dupe them. Even the Egyptians, who had 15 years to get acquainted with the weaknesses of Israeli politicians, mistrust the denials of Israeli-Iraqi contacts. How do you persuade the Saudis that 'Amiram Nir's successor is not these very days paying a portion of the profits from a secret oil agreement with Saddam Husayn to the election campaign of Republican candidate to the Senate, Oliver North? Luckily for Israel, its neighbors cannot conceive that it has failed to learn the lesson of Saddam Husayn's forged messages from the early 1980's.

A senior Washington official has told me that the voices coming from Israel generated the new conciliatory tone used by President Mubarak toward Iraq, and the new tone contributed to the Saudi decision—made despite the United States—to stay away from the Cairo conference on population problems. The world seems to be taking Israel much more seriously than Israel is taking itself. Israel's chief rabbi must have obtained President Clinton's blessing before he met with Fidel Castro—and that is a clear sign of a reassessment of Washington-Havana relations. No one thinks that self-promotion could drive even a rabbi over the edge. The Israeli prime minister invited Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Jerusalem while his tourism minister welcomed pilgrims from Tripoli. The association of Pan Am plane victims rushed to publish a statement warning against the erosion of the embargo on Libya.

The Clinton administration does not expect Israel to stray from the policies it adopted for negotiating with its

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neighbors. All the Americans want in return for special ties and their outpouring of billions is that the Israelis not spit in their eye. When the French did it—in the instance of the resumption of an embargo on Iraq, for instance—they meant every drop, and the United States responded in kind, as it did toward China and Russia. It goes without saying that friendly relations with the United States do not make Israel an American protege. A senior Jerusalem official told me that conversely that the weakness of this administration contributed substantially to the peace process because the Arabs have given up their fantasy that the United States was going to pressure Israel and embrace direct, purposeful negotiations. (Al-Asad, for instance, has realized by now that Warren Christopher will not get the Golan for him, and some people add that James Baker also failed to extract a single inch from Israel.) With genuine interests at stake, Israel does not have to recoil from arguing even with the first U.S. Administration to send a Jew to represent its interests in Israel. The Protocols of the Elders of Zion are too serious a matter to be left with blabbermouths.

Rabin Comments on Golan at Cabinet Meeting

TA0809130894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] Let me begin with the attempt by several hawkish Labor Knesset members to impose constraints regarding the talks with Syria. Prime Minister Rabin made several interesting remarks about this issue at the beginning of today's special cabinet meeting. Rabin said that in the event of a significant withdrawal in return for peace with Syria, the proposal for the peace treaty will be brought for the people to decide in a national referendum. He reiterated this, apparently in view of reports that certain people had learned that there will not be such a referendum.

Yitzhaq Rabin also referred to the demand for a special majority to pass the referendum, saying there is no precedent for this. He believes this demand may stem from the fact that several polls show that 64 percent of the public support a compromise on the Golan. Although Rabin rejected this demand, a referendum will surely be held.

The prime minister made his position on the Golan quite clear. He said: We have no agreement with the Syrians on the line we will reach at the end of the negotiations. We have no commitment vis-a-vis the Syrians regarding a specific line of withdrawal. Rabin repeated his position regarding the basis of the dialogue with the Americans on the negotiations with Syria, and this is well-known: Israel accepts the principle of withdrawal on the Golan. He speaks of a package deal, which he describes as a four-legged table, which includes the depth of the withdrawal; the duration of the withdrawal; the most interesting clause, which concerns the phases of the withdrawal; and the link between the withdrawal and normalization. In this context, Rabin elaborated a little during the cabinet meeting, saying: Our position is that of a very slight withdrawal in the first stage, without uprooting any settlement, if possible. Rabin then went into the matter of the three-year test in order to formalize full normalization in bilateral relations, including embassies; only then will further withdrawal be effected. In other words, full normalization will be put to the test for three years after the slight withdrawal. The prime minister mentioned that something similar was done with the Egyptians: The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployed along the al-'Arish-Ra's Muhammad line, during which time full normalization between Israel and Egypt, including embassies and an open border, was implemented.

Rabin mentioned that the reference now is to three years, during which we will remain along a line that follows a very partial and slight—as Rabin put it—withdrawal. The security arrangements designed to guarantee security under the conditions of peace with Syria will then be put to the test. As for the Americans, who also play a very decisive role in this affair, Israel is asking them for support on three components: deterrence; early warning—namely early warning components, an early warning system; and a security breathing space, about which Rabin is apparently referring to long-term security agreements.

In any event, Minister Ya'aqov Tzur queried the prime minister about his reference to a tiny withdrawal. On this, Rabin avoided any reference to a definite geographic line or a topographic line clearly delineated on the map and said only that we are prepared to undertake a withdrawal but are not prepared to commit to the scope of the withdrawal before the Syrians agree to the duration of the withdrawal. This will be longer than three years, because three years involve only the first line, and the Syrians have not yet agreed to this either.

It seems to me that there are quite clear clarifications of the prime minister's position here. The first stage of withdrawal will be very slight, tiny, without the uprooting of any settlement, if possible, and only after three years of normalization and trial will the next stage be discussed.

As for the seven hawkish Labor Knesset members who are demanding a special majority, I believe there will not be opposition to Rabin's position within the government. Some ministers have slightly more hawkish positions on this issue. Ya'aqov Tzur is one of them. A minister who has expressed himself on the security issue a little more than usual lately is Minister Efrayim Sne, but he is more concerned about the situation in Lebanon than on the Golan Heights. I can state with a very high degree of certainty that if there are buds of opposition to the prime minister within his government regarding the Golan, they will wither very quickly.

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Peres Calls For High-Level Secret Syria Talks

TA0809193894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, in Peres' office in Jerusalem on 8 September—recorded]

[Text] [Peres] One or two things in al-Shar's remarks were interesting. One, as far as I am aware, it was the first time he spoke of warm peace. Two, he expressed optimism saying the issue can be wrapped up by the end of the year. These are new things. At the same time, he reverted to the old stubbornness, saying that Israel should first announce a total withdrawal, and only then will all those wonderful things take place. That is to say that some progress has been made, but again he returned to square one which makes opening the negotiations very difficult.

[Sukenik] We always say that the depth of peace will equal the depth of withdrawal. Your Syrian counterpart, Foreign Minister al-Shar' speaks of full diplomatic relations and a full and warm peace. What about withdrawal?

[Peres] A withdrawal has two accompanying conditions. For example, he spoke of reciprocal demilitarization, saying that the demilitarized zones should be equal on both sides. We cannot accept this. Anyone familiar with the map knows this is impossible. Then, he did not speak of security arrangements, nor did he speak of the phased implementation of the contract. After all, we are on the end that gives the more substantive things. The compensation for these tangible things is time. We would like to see what practical things happens on the ground.

[Sukenik] What should happen now? What is the next stage required for the negotiations to embark on a new path?

[Peres] The negotiations should be held on a higher level and, to a certain extent, under dimmer lights. The negotiations should deal with all issues simultaneously. These are things that should happen.

[Sukenik] Do you mean that in the next stage you and al-Shar' should meet, heading teams or alone, and begin serious discussions?

[Peres] This is not a personal matter, but a cabinet level representation is certainly called for. Also, a different, quieter and more secret level is needed and, along with the United States, we should jointly seek ways to attain a breakthrough.

Sharon, Shahal, Rabinovich on Peace With Syria

TA0909092394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will convene the Labor faction at the beginning of next week to report on his proposals to Syria and to thwart the legislation initiated by several faction members. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that faction chairman Eli Dayan proposes imposing party discipline on the Knesset members [MK's] in the spirit of a past faction resolution barring Labor MK's from endorsing political legislation initiated by the opposition.

Likud figures have criticized the convening of a special Knesset session next week labeling it a show for the media.

MK Avigdor Qahalani, head of the Golan Lobby, announced this morning that he will not submit to party discipline and that he will proceed with his proposed bill to secure a special majority for Golan Law reversal at the beginning of the Knesset winter session in three weeks. Qahalani told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that it was indubitably a matter of conscience, and he planned to take democratic action to convince the public not to support any withdrawal on the Golan. However, Qahalani rejected reports that he was trying to topple the government. In this respect, he admonished his protest associate Eli Malka, head of the Golan Settlements Committee.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that MK Ari'el Sharon has said he does not expect Qahalani and his associates to vote against their party, and they should not be seen as harbingers of a new political map. Sharon said the government intends to withdraw to the ridge line in the Golan Heights and to evacuate most settlements in the first stage, and to get off the Golan to the banks of the Sea of Galilee three years later.

Minister Moshe Shahal says anyone familiar with the political map knows full well that Syria will not agree to peace without significant withdrawal on the Golan. The question on the agenda is the quality of peace with Syria and the time span during which we will be able to examine it. He was speaking to our correspondent this morning.

Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, head of the delegation to talks with Syria, says that what Israel is proposing is not full withdrawal from the Golan, but rather withdrawal to a certain line on the Golan. Our Washington correspondent Arye Golan notes that the U.S. Administration has yet to make a final decision on its next peace process move, is hesitating between sending Secretary Christopher on another shuttle tour and dispatching Dennis Ross, head of the peace team, to the region. Ambassador Rabinovich says a crisis in another part of the world is liable to hold up the peace talks with Syria.

Last night President Clinton called Prime Minister Rabin and discussed the situation in Haiti. He held similar conversations with other world leaders.

Sarid Denies West Bank Settlement Expansion Plan

TA0809195594 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Yoram Binur video report]

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[Excerpts] Is Israel trying to push the Green Line eastward? West Bank Civil Administration operations over the last few weeks give the impression that there are more cases of settlements' being expanded and of trying to create a territorial continuity between settlements. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Binur reports:

[Begin recording] [Binur] In anticipation of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from population centers in the West Bank and of their transfer to autonomous Palestinian rule, the government—via the Civil Administration—is attempting to create facts on the ground. The main methods of implementing the government policy are expanding existing settlements and creating territorial continuity between them, as well as paving new roads. This policy is aimed at establishing three separate areas in the West Bank and at pushing the Green Line eastward. We have learned that the plan is currently in an initial implementation stage in the Ramallah area. According to the plan, an area of 2,100 dunams, which has so far been cultivated by several Arab villages in the area, will be confiscated. This area will be used for expanding the settlements of Nahli'el and Dolev, as well as other settlements. Representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] yesterday arrived in the village of Kawbar, some of whose lands have been confiscated. Local villagers showed the ICRC people ownership documents, claiming that the new plan will suffocate them. [passage omitted]

TV 2 has obtained a Civil Administration document which details the planned expansion activity in the settlements. The document dealing with the settlement of Dolev stipulates that after the expansion the settlement will spread out over an area of more than 1,000 dunams and will include a sports area, future development zones, and even a cemetery.

The Palestinian side is anxiously monitoring the settlement expansion plan. The geographer Khalil Tufakji has been appointed by the PLO to monitor the changes on the ground.

[Tufakji, in Arabic] From the political aspect the Green Line has been dead for a long time, because there are two lines: The Green Line from the geographic aspect, which is between Modi'in, 'Ofarim, moving north to (Kanna); and the Green Line about which we are talking, going through Halamish, Talmon, Baytuniya, and Ramot.

[Binur] In reaction, Civil Administration sources say the plan is based on a master plan for expanding the settlement of Nahli'el, approved about a year ago. Civil Administration sources said that the additional land for the settlement are state-owned land. [end recording]

Reacting to the above report, Minister Yosi Sarid says the government knows nothing about a plan to expand settlements and that such a plan must be totally rejected. Senior military sources say that so far no land has been confiscated in the Ramallah area, but it is not inconceivable that this will be done in future.

Settlers Collecting Unregistered Arms for Future

TA0909113094 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 9 Sep 94 p 4

[Commentary by Nadav Ha'etzni: "The Settlers' Cache"]

[Text] At this stage it is still too early to say whether the "new Jewish underground" affair was a significant development or whether it was blown out of proportion. One thing is already clear: The Shin Bet and the Police National Unit for Serious Crimes Investigations are investing enormous efforts in an attempt to track down all firearms and weapons which reach right wing elements illegally.

The investigators rightly assume that quite a few people in Judaea and Samaria settlements are hoarding rifles, revolvers, and other types of weapons. Indeed, from talks with many activists, a lot of covert activity is going on in this area. Some people are trying to obtain nonregistered weapons, hand grenades, or various means that would obstruct traces. Contrary to the current assumption, however, most of the hoarders do not plan to use the weapons immediately, rather in anticipation of the next stage in the autonomy plan. They say that only if 'Arafat's soldiers enter Judaea and Samaria, and only if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fails to provide the minimal protection it gives the settlers today, will they be forced to make use of these weapons.

There is no shortage of rifles and revolvers in the West Bank today. Almost every settler is entitled to bear a revolver, while many receive automatic weapons from their settlement's armories. These weapons, mainly Uzi submachine guns and M-16's, belong to the territorial defense system and are under the supervision of settlements' security officers.

Several years of unpleasant encounters with the Israeli legal system, however, have caused the settlers to be wary of using these weapons. Many settlers reached the conclusion that even in life threatening situations it is preferable not to use their legally issued revolvers or submachine guns. Too many settlers who have fired shots in the air after being stoned found themselves involved in complicated legal procedures with the police and the courts.

This situation has led many to the conclusion that if the security situation continues to deteriorate and the Palestinians receive control on the ground, it is preferable to hold a rifle or revolver which does not appear on the police computer.

Incidentally, it is not necessary to possess alternative firearms for preventing identification following a firing incident. Many settlers are familiar with firing-erasing techniques such as changing the barrel or striking pin, or

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introducing a turret for gathering the cartridge cases, et cetera. As an example we can site the detention of Rabbi Avraham Toledano, head of the Temple Mount yeshiva and a former Kakh leader, who was caught at Ben-Gurion Airport in the possession of professional literature and means for erasing firing traces.

Aside from those who are hoarding weapons for future use, there is a minority planning lethal "retaliation acts" against Arabs. As is well known, there are still several unsolved murder cases in Judaea and Samaria. The most serious incident occurred west of Hebron approximately nine months ago, when three members of the Fatafta family were murdered in Tarqumiyah. To the best of my knowledge the weapons used in this unsolved incident have not been identified and could be used again.

In view of the above, over the last year the authorities have tightened their control over West Bank weapon holders. Many have received orders to return the automatic weapons issued them, others were even called upon to hand over their personal revolvers to the police on some bureaucratic pretext or another. These steps have undoubtedly increased supervision over the legal weapons held by the settlers, but paradoxically they have led many to the conclusion that it is preferable to hold alternative rifles and revolvers.

Incidentally, while stricter control has been introduced over Jewish weapon holders, directives regarding illegally held weapons in the Arab sector of the West Bank have become more lenient. Turning a blind eye, target ranges, and even inter-Palestinian firing incidents have become a daily affair in the West Bank.

In the last analysis it can be said that the cat-and-mouse game between the right wing fringes in Judaea and Samaria and the Shin Bet will continue at the same level as long as the Palestinian police remains in Gaza and Jericho. Once 'Arafat's soldiers start marching in Nablus and Hebron, however, it is likely that a new stage in the use of firearms will also begin.

Molotovs Thrown at Israeli Cars; Jews Detained

TA0909101094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Six Molotov cocktails were thrown at Israeli cars in the Hebron area last night. No one was hurt and no damage was caused.

Two Qiryat Arba' residents, an adolescent and an adult, were detained last night on suspicion of harassing Arabs. They were detained when an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol saw what they were doing and informed the Judaea District Police.

Former 'Collaborator' Gets Life for Killing Jew

TA0809120494 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Today the Tel Aviv District Court sentenced former collaborator Sa'adi al-Gharbali, from Gaza, to life in prison. Al-Gharbali had been convicted of murdering David Mish'ali, from Tel Aviv, in June 1994. [passage omitted]

Arrested IDF Soldier Linked to Jewish 'Underground'

TA0509114894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Sep 94 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Re'uven Shapira, Gabi Zohar, Shlomo Dror, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Security elements and police officials believe that Lieutenant Oren Edri's detention will lead to the exposure of a new Jewish underground composed of radical right-wing young people, mostly from Qiryat Arba'. Additional young people, besides Edri, who are known as extreme right-wing activists, are suspected of membership in the organization and in assisting Edri. The publication of the names and identifying data of the other suspects was banned yesterday.

Investigative police and Shin Bet figures estimate that more young people belong to the hard core of the recently exposed underground, and that more arrests are likely. Police officials said last night that the investigation is focusing on uncovering evidence of the suspects' involvement in several cases of murdered Arabs.

The organization is believed to have been active for a long time, and its members are believed to have planned to carry out attacks against Arabs, using weapons procured by Lt. Edri and others. [passage omitted]

Edri's detention had been approved by political elements, including Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 5 September, in a page 3 report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, adds: "Members of the political echelons, who were briefed on the organization, said: 'This is a very serious matter. The arrested lieutenant is only a link in a ring that has been exposed.'"

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 5 September, in a page 3 report by Yosi Levi and Amir Gilat, adds: "A Kakh spokesman said yesterday that Lt. Edri and the other detainees in this affair never had any connection with his movement. On the contrary, 'we know that Edri was opposed to our operational methods,' he stressed."]

Two More Suspects Detained

TA0809120394 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Two more people were detained last night in the affair of the right-wing group that planned to attack Arabs. The two are Elyashiv Shiftler from Hebron and 'Ido Elba from Qiryat Arba'. [passage omitted]

The two are known to be friends of Lieutenant Oren Edri, who was detained last Friday [2 September] on

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suspicion of membership in a radical right-wing organization that planned reprisals against Arabs.

The relatives of the most recent detainees were not informed of the reason for the detention, as was the case in last Saturday's detention of two Qiryat Arba' brothers in connection with the same underground. [passage omitted]

Lt. Edri will meet with his attorney today for the first time since his detention. Knesset Member David Mena', the attorney of the two Qiryat Arba' residents detained last Saturday, has petitioned the High Court of Justice to permit him to meet with his clients. [passage omitted]

Opposition Parties Urge Ending Knesset Recess

TA0809174694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] In their meeting today, the heads of the opposition parties decided to demand that the Knesset end its summer recess to allow a continuous Knesset debate of the issues pertaining to the negotiations with Syria. The opposition factions summoned the Knesset for a special session next Tuesday [13 September].

After the meeting, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told Qol Yisra'el that a situation where the prime minister makes peace-related moves without the Knesset being aware of them is impossible. Netanyahu said that the Knesset was in recess before the signing of the agreement with the PLO, and eventually it was presented with the final facts. The heads of the opposition parties also decided to launch a series of public protest moves outside the Knesset.

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 8 September adds: "National Religious Party leader Zvulun Hammer said that early elections are called for. Tzomet also demands that elections be advanced and that the Knesset end its summer recess and discuss the political issues. Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said that there is no need for peace with Syria. Israel does not need a Syrian ambassador, he told our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal. Likud leader Netanyahu said that Syria needs peace with Israel no less than we need peace with it, and there is no reason to abandon the Golan Heights."]

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Hasan, Party Chiefs Debate Peace, Other Issues

JN0809163794

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 7 September carries a recorded 155-minute "part one" of a meeting held at al-Hashimiyah Palace on 7 September between Crown Prince Hasan and the leaders of the Jordanian political parties and trade unions, political and economic activists, and representatives of the news media. The meeting is also attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, several ministers, as well as the members of the newly created Royal Commission for Development and Modernization. Amman television says the "second part" will be carried on 8 September.

At the outset, Crown Prince Hasan thanks the attendees for responding to his invitation and hopes that such meetings would continue in the future as part of the "dialogue of policies". Prince Hasan then urges the leaders of Jordanian political parties and trade unions to eschew "political sloganeering" in favor of clear and well-defined political programs and agendas. He says: "If political slogans are devoid of social and economic content and studies supported by figures, then these slogans will become a burden for those who uphold them and will hamper society's movement." The prince then cites an Arab intellectual who has diagnosed the crisis of some political movements in the Arab world in terms of an excessive tendency on the part of those movements to "pride themselves on appellations," such as nationalist, pan-Arab, Islamic, etc. The prince also asks the attendees why Jordanians are using a "defensive tone" in their political arguments and attitudes. He stresses that Jordan "does not bargain over principles," and that King Husayn is open to all political forces, noting that King Husayn has spread a "spirit of tolerance" in Jordan.

Commenting on the attitude of some political forces that reject Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, Prince Hasan says: "Are the programs of Islamists, pan-Arabists and others absolute and unchanging in a fast-changing world?" The prince then refers to the results of an Islamic meeting held in Tehran yesterday, which called for dialogue between the various Islamic sects. He characterizes this recommendation as an "advanced step". The prince also asks: "Have some people forgotten that everything has been imposed on Jordan since the Gulf crisis and war, starting with the return of the kinsmen from Kuwait in the thousands, and ending with the al- 'Aqabah blockade?" The prince says that these factors should not be overlooked when discussing the present "pressures and challenges". The prince then calls for a "quiet dialogue."

Turning to democracy, Prince Hasan says the purpose of this meeting is, in part, to find a way to "deepen democracy" and that this meeting is part of the "quiet dialogue of policies".

Referring to "normalization" with Israel, Prince Hasan says: "When we chose the option of attaining our national and political rights through the so-called peace track and through negotiations, this was, I believe, in response to our people's needs and desire. Perhaps, the recent survey conducted by the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, as a neutral academic indicator, gives us proof of this response and understanding."

The crown prince then discusses democracy and development, saying that the two go hand in hand. He adds that the modernization sought by the Royal Commission is "within a constitutional and legal framework." The prince also notes the need for "comprehensive reassessment" of judicial, legal, legislative, and executive performance through activating political slogans. He further observes the need for a "national strategy" to face the present challenges and proposes the motto "survival is for the most qualified." In addition, Prince Hasan underlines the "role of the opposition" which he says is based on "disagreement" without hard feelings and without spoiling patriotism. The prince then gives the floor to members of the Royal Commission to explain the objectives of this commission.

Minister of Supply 'Adil al-Qudah, who is a member of the Royal Commission for Development and Modernization, then takes the floor. Al-Qudah gives a briefing on the role of the Royal Commission. He says the commission's priorities have to do with the investment climate and creating controls on government purchases. He elaborates on the steps taken thus far in these two areas. Al-Qudah says the commission will not be a substitute for the legislative or executive branches, but will develop ideas for modernization and development that will be followed through legal and constitutional channels.

The first to reply to Prince Hasan's remarks is Yusuf Abu-Bakr, secretary general of the liberal Democratic Arab Islamic Movement Party, Du'a'. Abu-Bakr thanks the prince for this "belated gesture", which he says should have been made "at least two years ago". Abu-Bakr first comments on development by saying that the future requires trailblazing new horizons and paths for development. He notes that the source of defects in the development process lies in the "approach and the cadres and mechanisms implementing this approach." Discussing the peace process, Abu-Bakr says: "I think we have three options: We either make history, adjust to it, or go out of it. I believe, we are unable, as a nation and not only Jordan, to make history, but we also do not have the right to take the risk of going out of history. Therefore, we can do nothing but adjust to history. To do that, we should realize that we are now heading for a compromise [with Israel] and not peace. Compromise means recognizing the victory of the unjust conditions of reality, while peace means that all its parties devote their efforts to building a common life under fair conditions. This has so far not been achieved. I believe we should go beyond the apologetic, defensive attitudes expressed by his royal highness. We should talk with absolute realism

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and say that we are facing utter defeat. There is a winner. The Arabs are defeated, and the Zionist enemy is the victor. According to the ABC's of politics, the victor will try to make use of this military and cultural victory politically and strategically. It is our duty now to try as much as we can to minimize the losses. This clearly means that we should go to the political field and not remain in the grandstand, because those who stay in the grandstand can neither score a goal nor can they keep others from scoring goals in their net."

Abu-Bakr adds: "I think we have two alternatives other than the current compromise. The first is a state of no-peace, no-war and the other alternative is war. If we choose the first option, this means that we will leave the Zionist enemy to plant the West Bank and Gaza Strip with settlements until this container overflows. We in Jordan are, in fact, the weakest link, so if this container overflows, it will spill on us, and this will be a serious prelude to the loss of Palestine and Jordan together. As for war, I say with certainty that the Zionist enemy has the decision in this regard because it is much stronger. Therefore, we fear that we might reach a stage in which we do not have an opportunity even to defend what is left of this nation's values, dignity, and morals. Therefore, I believe we are approaching an acceptable solution but not a fair solution. We accept this solution, indeed. We stand behind the Hashemites, and I speak here as a head of the Islamic Du'a' Movement. We support the Hashemites in this, but a fair solution is a totally different thing."

Prince Hasan comments on Abu-Bakr's remarks by saying that he had been urging such meetings for a long time and that he is not to blame for this delayed meeting. Prince Hasan notes the need for moving from slogans to actions. He comments on Abu-Bakr's "acceptable but not fair solution" characterization by asking: "Where is absolute justice in international politics?"

The second to speak is Mijhim al-Khurayshah, secretary general of the Jordanian National Alliance Party. Al-Khurayshah talks about the role of political parties in political life. He talks about some "negative aspects" such as poverty, unemployment, bribery, etc. He calls for stemming those aspects. He proposes forming a committee that groups political parties to confer with the Royal Commission so that the two together can cooperate in shaping the future. He declares support for the government.

Taysir al-Himsi, secretary general of the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, is the next to speak. Al- Himsi calls for modernizing current laws because "they do not meet their objectives." He also calls for controls on investments. Al- Himsi adds: "Your Highness: We have learned that some Jordanian citizens are contacting companies of the Zionist enemy to set up joint ventures. Everybody knows that the Zionist enemy has the money, science, and advanced technology and it is capable of striking at the Arab economy and industry. Therefore, we should protect our country from these possible dangers."

Prince Hasan comments on al-Himsi's remarks on setting up joint ventures. Hasan mentions the upcoming Casablanca summit, saying that Jordan rejects ventures that are for normalization and submission but advances visions that focus more attention on Jordanian issues. The prince also talks about the Arab boycott of Israel, saying that "removing the Arab boycott should be gradual and should correspond to the political and legal progress in the negotiations." He then asks the members of the Royal Commission to comment on the other remarks made by al-Himsi.

The justice minister comments on the government's foreign purchases and tenders. He says that creating a central agency to monitor state purchases will not substitute for the executive agencies but will draw up rules to ease bureaucratic restrictions.

Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, secretary general of the Islamic Action Front, then speaks. Al-Farhan supports al-Khuraysha's proposal on the formation of a party committee to cooperate with the Royal Commission. Al-Farhan stresses the role of political parties in promoting Jordan's interests, regardless of their different views. Al-Farhan also notes the "political marginalization" of parties and the need to consult with the political parties and allow them to take part in the decisionmaking process. On "normalization with the Jewish enemy," he says: "We side with the opposition regarding this issue. I believe we will not be more eager than his royal highness and the successive governments to fight normalization because the economy and the market economy will be in Israel's favor." He notes that Israel will flood the Jordanian market with its goods and that this could result in destroying Jordan's economy. Al-Farhan adds: "Our enmity to this Jewish enemy shall remain unchanged, whatever the political solutions, because this is only one battle, but not the battle of history. Future generations will liberate Palestine, inch by inch."

The prince welcomes coordination between the political parties and the Royal Commission and invites Layth Shubaylat to speak.

Engineer Layth Shubaylat, a political activist who was convicted on charges of conspiring against the regime in 1992 and who is now chief of the Engineers Association, stresses the need to give more attention and care to the opposition. He says that no one will dispute the fact that "we are forced" to make peace with Israel, but he opposes normalization with Israel and media depiction of what is happening as a victory for Jordan. He then talks about the psychological fear experienced by citizens and how they do not dare to criticize government symbols and officials. In harsh and bitter in tones, he criticizes the government. He says that Jordan's King Husayn is forced to "save the boat". Subaylat criticizes

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the new world order and Western policies and conferences. He notes that Jordan is changing its laws and regulations to prepare the public for the new stage while Israel has not changed anything. He also notes that "we cannot coexist with them [the Israelis] because they are Zionists, and because they do not coexist with anybody." Shubaylat goes on to talk about "corruption", noting the need for "the purging of our agencies". He says that corruption is now worse than in the past. He accuses the government of "gagging mouths," and "suppression" and declares that "we cannot say there is democracy now".

The prince comments on Shubaylat's remarks, saying that the "cultural onslaught" must be studied and noting the need for "rules" to govern dialogue. He also says that corruption charges are to discussed through other channels.

The next to speak is 'Isa Madanat, secretary general of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party. Madanat supports Prince Hasan's remarks about the lack of "absolute justice" in politics. Madanat, however, voices disagreement with the government, noting that Jordan is moving fast toward normalization with Israel, although Israel has so far not recognized Jordan's water and territorial rights. Madanat also criticizes "enthusiasm" in the media for peace and normalization with Israel. He elaborates on this issue, saying that the public should have no illusions about peace with Israel. He also calls for reviving coordination between the parties that are negotiating with Israel.

Prince Hasan comments on Madanat's remarks, saying that it is not a sound negotiating method to inform the public about all that is happening at all stages of the negotiations. Hasan then cites the survey conducted by the Center for Strategic Studies as evidence that there is "thirst" on the part of a large number of people to have a just and honorable peace. Hasan says there are other Arab parties negotiating with Israel, and that Jordan is not alone in this business.

Lawyer Talal al-'Umari, secretary general of the Democratic Arab Unionist Party, Wa'd, then takes the floor. Al-'Umari notes with appreciation the dialogue held by Prince Hasan with the party leaders. Al-'Umari says that Jordan is about to embrace an economic and political order whose features are not clear to the majority of the people. This, he says, requires scientific and careful planning. He also calls for expanding and continuing open and democratic dialogue.

Riyad al-Shak'ah, member of the Royal Commission, then comments on the issues raised in the dialogue and some of the remarks made by the attendees.

Next to speak is 'Abd-al-Wali al-Mumani, whose profession is not identified. Al-Mumani stresses the importance of justice, work, science, and wisdom for the progress and vitality of nations. He hopes the Royal Commission will give high priority to work and to simplifying laws and regulations.

Dr. Khalid Abu-Mismaqah, representing the pro-establishment al- 'Ahd Party, then takes the floor. Abu-Mismaqah praises Prince Hasan's efforts and asks about the work of the Royal Commission and whether it will be in constant touch with the people in order to sound out their views. Regarding the peace process, Abu-Mismaqah says that the best solution is to face the problem and not avoid it. The justice minister then comments on the work of the commission.

The last to speak in this first part of the dialogue is Hamzah Mansur, a member of the Islamic Action Front. Mansur talks about the need for "a government with a national salvation program" to effect the necessary reforms. Mansur also wonders about the "channels of communication" with the Royal Commission. He further says that Jordanian opposition is "nationalist". Mansur notes that there are "forces", which he declines to name, that are hampering democracy and that do not believe in democracy. He notes that "democracy is retreating," and that party members are still being interrogated and punished for their party affiliations. Mansur stresses the need to safeguard national unity.

Prince Hasan then comments on Mansur's remarks, stressing that the Royal Commission was created because there is a feeling that the entire region is going to open up to the world in the next stage. He urges more efforts to regulate this process.

Further on Debate

JN0909100294

[Editorial Report] Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 8 September carries a recorded 150-minute "second and last part" of a meeting held at al-Hashimiyah Palace on 7 September between Crown Prince Hasan and the leaders of the Jordanian political parties and trade unions, political and economic activists, and representatives of the news media.

The meeting continues with Prince Hasan inviting Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party to speak. Zayadin emphasizes the importance of such meetings and calls for continuing and expanding them. While supporting a political solution for the Middle East issue, he stresses the need for a just and comprehensive but not separate solution, based on international legitimacy. However, he complains that "so far we have not seen Israel showing a desire to restore rights to whom they belong."

On the process of normalization with Israel, he says: "We need to be patient. We have had 50 years of wars, blood, and tears with this state [Israel]. This cannot be forgotten and jumped over with such speed."

Zayadin says the problem of corruption is a chronic one in Jordan and demands the trial of the corrupt. Zayadin admits that "no communist has been detained for the

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past five years. We have a center and a newspaper through which we voice our opinion and we have not felt any interference from the government. This is a good thing. We hope democracy will expand and be deepened and become a way of life."

Commenting on Zayadin's remarks, the crown prince says that "joining the peace march will also reduce the Zionist dream of expanding at the expense of this region of the world." He says the Israeli opposition opposed the Oslo agreement but the state was forced to abide by the agreements that followed the Oslo agreement. The role of the opposition, he says, is "improving conditions for negotiations."

Touching on the cultural challenge involved in the peace process, the crown prince says: "The cultural challenge faces Israel in the same way as it faces us. I believe that the fate of the State of Israel is connected with the cultural challenge. The State of Israel is destined to become an ordinary state in this region, which is perhaps part of the Israeli apprehension with regard to the cultural challenge. Not a distinguished state but an ordinary state within the larger framework of this great homeland."

The crown prince then invites other party officials and figures to speak. They discuss the work of the Royal Commission, proposing methods to deal with the domestic problems and ills of the nation, with the crown prince making occasional comments on their remarks. Some speakers warn of the dangers of normalization with Israel and complain that despite ending the state of war and the signing of agreements, nothing has been restored from Israel. They demand comprehensive peace. Other speakers, representing the media, criticize the Jordanian political parties for their failure to present coherent political programs and a vision of the future.

The crown prince then makes concluding remarks, thanking the speakers, stressing optimism and compassion, and invoking instances from Arab history to prove his point.

Weekly Expects Cabinet Reshuffle in 'Next Few Weeks'

JN0809115994 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned from informed parliamantary sources that a new Jordanian Government will be formed within the next few weeks to live up to the political and economic requirements of the coming stage on the local, Arab, and international levels. The sources said that "the new government could be headed by al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, Ahmad 'Ubaydat, or Dhuqan al-Hindawi. The three may participate in a multipolar government."

The sources added that large-scale reshuffles will take place in various government departments and will include senior officials as part of the government's policy to modernize the administrative body and eradicate financial corruption. The sources added that the reshuffle will also include ambassadors, secretaries general, and directors.

Airline Chief, Others Under House Arrest in Corruption Case

JN0809112594 Amman AKHIR KHABAR in Arabic 6-7 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by the economic affairs correspondent]

[Excerpt] AKHIR KHABAR has learned that Mahmud Jamal Balqaz, Royal Jordanian's [RJ] former director, has been under house arrest for days. Informed sources say that Balqaz is being interrogated about RJ's management over the past few years. Others in the corporation are also in the same position and are facing investigations of financial and administrative corruption.

Recent changes in the corporation led to the appointment of Nadir al-Dhahabi as director general.

The Royal Commission for Modernization and Development is now facing its first and greatest challenge as it continues to discuss the RJ issue, which is expected to make big newspaper headlines over the next few months.

In principle, the AFP report, which was carried by Radio Monte Carlo and was repeated over the Israeli radio all day yesterday, neither surprised Jordanian citizens nor shocked the Royal Commission members themselves. However, everyone was aghast at the figure that was mentioned in the matter of financial corruption. The report said that a thorough investigation is currently under way to determine the fate of $40 million which disappeared following the signing of the Airbus agreement in 1989 [year as published] to purchase four A-320 aircraft. The sources said that "cooperation of the Airbus Corporation is needed to ascertain the fate of commissions that were paid" as part of the transaction.

Informed sources in Amman said that two figures with links to RJ are involved and that the case has not been referred to court yet pending the gathering of irrefutable evidence. [passage omitted]

Airline Requests Revival of Amman-Kuwait Air Route

JN0809122994 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 8-9 Sep 94 pp 1, 18

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[Excerpt] The Royal Jordanian [RJ] airline is expected to resume flights to the State of Kuwait early November following a four-year cessation.

Dr. Majdi Sabri, RJ deputy director general for marketing and sales, has told AL-ASWAQ that the corporation has officially requested the Kuwaiti General Administration of Civil Aviation to permit the Jordanian airline to resume its flights to Kuwait.

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Dr. Sabri added that the RJ request, which the Jordanian Government greatly supported, has not yet received a response from the concerned Kuwaiti authorities. However, he said the RJ administration hopes the time is appropriate for resuming flights between the two countries in order to facilitate matters for the citizens of both countries, who are compelled to travel with other airlines. Hence, neither the Jordanian nor Kuwaiti airlines benefit from flights along this route which is currently witnessing heavy traffic.

Dr. Sabri explained that the RJ request included a proposal to initially revive this route by operating two flights weekly between Amman and Kuwait. While RJ requests the revival of this air route, it will welcome a similar step by the Kuwaiti airline as a contribution to enhancing the fraternal relations between both sisterly peoples. [passage omitted]

Germany To Reduce Amman's Debt DM50 Million

JN0809194194 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Finance Ministry has said that the German Government plans to cut 50 million German marks [DM] out of Jordan's due debts to it. The responsible source informed television correspondent Kassab Samawi that Wighard Haerdtl, secretary of state at the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, who visited Jordan yesterday, confirmed this intention during his meeting with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and concerned Jordanian officials. Half of this amount will be earmarked in Jordanian dinars to finance environmental projects in Jordan, covering water, sanitation, forestry, and other environmental activities.

The source noted that the new German move comes as a speedy response to the positive talks His Majesty King Husayn held with German officials during his recent visit to Germany.

At the beginning of this year, the German Government cut DM29.5 million. Thus, the overall reduction of Jordan's debts due to Germany will amount to DM79.5 million this year. The source added that the German Government will continue to support development projects and extend technical assistance and direct grants for Jordan. In addition, it will continue to support Jordan through its membership at the EC and other relevant international institutions, such as the IMF.

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Al-Hirawi Accepts Minister Mirhij's Resignation

NC0809192694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Following his meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi this evening, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri announced that after consultation and agreement with the president, Minister Bisharah Mirhij's resignation has been accepted.

Hizballah Reacts To U.S. Charges of Bombings Role

NC0909071994 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] An official Hizballah source has reacted to statements by the counterterrorism coordinator at the U.S. State Department in which he accused Hizballah of involvement in the bombings in Panama, London, and Buenos Aires. The Hizballah source said the ethically bankrupt American policy and officials know no limits; they no longer bother to lend any credibility to their statements. It is a cause for concern, the source said, that a country of the caliber of the United States should be prepared to (?risk) adopting positions and leveling accusations in such a cheap manner, when there is no evidence and when the highest judicial authorities, in Buenos Aires, Panama, and London, have denied the allegations.

The source noted that this campaign of lies, which reflects the bankruptcy and hatred felt by the American officials, stems from one thing: Resistance has become a factor that worries and disturbs the American-Zionist policy of hegemony, aggression, and division.

The source denied the American accusations and said Hizballah has nothing to do with the bombings. The source drew the world's attention to the magnitude of the lies and deception, which reflect a vicious onslaught against our honorable resistance with a view to ending resistance and resistance operations. The source asked: Would it not have lent credibility to American policy if the American officials had sought to pressure the Zionist occupiers?

Islamic Resistance Reports Attack on Israelis

NC0809131994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] An Islamic Resistance group this afternoon attacked an Israeli patrol on the Markabah-Tallusah road, destroying a Merkava tank and a troop carrier and killing or wounding the crew members. Soon after, the occupation forces deployed in Markabah bombarded Qabrikha and Majdal Silm, using 130 and 155-mm artillery.

Elsewhere, an enemy helicopter was spotted landing at the scene of the operation to transfer casualties. The villages are still being subjected to intensive shellfire.

The Israeli enemy brought reinforcements to its positions in Tallusah and Tallat al-Mashru'.

Israel Denies Attack

TA0809170094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] There were sharp exchanges of fire between the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and Hizballah terrorists in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon at noon. In the exchange of fire, the terrorists shelled IDF outposts with heavy artillery fire in the Tallusah area. Hizballah claims it attacked an IDF armed convoy, but Israel denies this. Avi Lipschitz reports:

[Lipschitz] The area is quiet now, which does not reflect what occurred in the central sector at noon. Terrorist forces shelled IDF outposts with heavy artillery fire, including Saggers missiles—and according to Lebanese reports, RPG rockets and mortars as well—in the Tallusah area. The IDF returned fire and the exchange lasted a long time.

Hizballah issued an announcement about an alleged attack by its fighters against an Israeli convoy, which included armored vehicles and tanks. The announcement was not, however, confirmed by any other source, and Israel has denied that any such incident took place.

IDF Soldier Killed, Another Wounded in South

TA0809184694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Moti 'Eden video report]

[Excerpt] A 21-year-old IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier, Ohad Nisim from Ashdod, was killed today in a terrorist attack on an IDF patrol near the village of Tallusah in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. Another soldier was injured in the attack and was taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. The force commander tell us this evening: It is always hard to lose men, but we will go on doing our best to hurt the terrorists and protect our soldiers. Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports:

['Eden] This morning, a paratrooper unit was on patrol to foil terrorist attacks aimed at the northern border. Near the village of al-Tallusah, some 2 km from the northern border, the force ran into a Hizballah ambush. The terrorists fired nearly 20 Sagger antitank missiles at the IDF soldiers. Sergeant Ohad Nisim, a medic, was mortally wounded. Another soldier was wounded and taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. [passage omitted]

Speaker Seeks Mubarak's Help To Lift Village Siege

NC0809164794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri met today with Sayyid Abu-Zayd 'Umar, Egypt's ambassador to Lebanon, who received from Speaker Birri a memorandum on the Israeli siege of the village of Arnun. Speaker Birri asked that the memorandum be hand delivered to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak so he can quickly intervene to lift the siege of the village.

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Al-Shar' Sees UK 'Inclination' To Lift Arms Ban

MM0809115094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 94 p 4

[Excerpt] London, Damascus—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has confirmed the existence of an official British inclination to lift the ban on arms sales to Syria. He urged the other states to follow Britain's example in this connection.

Well-informed circles have pointed out that lifting the ban could await U.S. approval. Al-Shar' said that the withdrawal in the spring is a condition for achieving peace. And that that should be completed within a year, not three years as proposed by Israel.

Al-Shar' was speaking at a press conference which he held at the foreign correspondents association in London at the end of his official visit to Britain. Al-Shar' departed for Holland yesterday on an official visit.

Al-Shar' spoke at the conference about Israel's conditions for withdrawing from Lebanon, saying that, if they are implemented, they could cause the outbreak of a new civil war.

Israel is demanding that the South Lebanese Army collaborating with Israel join the Lebanese Army, and that the resistance be disarmed—two matters which are difficult to implement before the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Al-Shar' criticized once again the Palestinian and Jordanian accords with Israel, saying that they do not produce a lasting peace, but, rather, encourage the situation to remain tense in the region.

He explained Syria's position on withdrawal from the Golan, saying that a full peace with Syria is conditional on full withdrawal from the Golan within a period not exceeding a year, or perhaps less.

He stressed the importance of shortening the period of withdrawing from the Golan, because it is the foundation for agreeing on peace. He stressed Syria's rejection of any peace that ignores the withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He expressed his belief that the Lebanese will not embark on a separate solution that does not take account of the Syrian position. [passage omitted]

Returns From Visit

JN0909053994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his delegation returned to Damascus at dawn today from a visit to the capital of the Netherlands, the Hague, and the British capital, London. [passage omitted]

Industry Ministry Grants Wider Powers to Provinces

JN0909102194 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 8

[Text] The Ministry of Industry has issued Decision No. 3,036 under which it amended previous industrial classifications. Under this decision, the ministry classified certain major industries as small industries. The decision also empowered the ministry's bureaus in the governorates to grant licenses to certain small industries without going to the head office. They include food industries involving semi-automated desiccation and preservation, industrial and mechanical industries, timber and furniture industries, certain chemical industries, textile industries, and other industries and professions.

Engineer Barakat Shahin, director of the private and professional sector, has said this decision aims at expanding investment in industry and giving a bigger role to small industries, especially since workers in these industries constitute more than 40 percent of the total workforce in the industrial sector. It also aims at facilitating matters for our brother industrialists by simplifying the procedures for obtaining licenses.

Paper Views Foreign Trade Policy

JN0609112194 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 16 Aug 94 p 8

[Article by Jihad al-Na'san]

[Text] The importance of foreign trade to the economy does not need further explanation or proof. Foreign Trade has always played a dynamic role in the economies of nations, including Syria, which has depended for a long time on the revenues from this trade. Foreign trade has played an important role in improving production, strengthening the ability to compete, opening up foreign markets, and providing for society's needs. At one time, foreign trade was the main source of revenues for the Syrian treasury. It also reflected the skill of Syrian merchants in this profession, about which mankind has known since ancient times.

The object of any economy is to provide goods for citizens, export the surplus, improve the quality and quantity of production, and reduce the cost of production to make goods, commodities, and services more competitive.

By this introduction we do not want to emphasize the importance of trade. What we actually want is to acquaint the reader with the policy which the government is pursuing in the field of foreign trade as well as its present and future inclinations.

Our policy in the field of foreign trade is very clear despite some negative points and loopholes that have appeared during the application and interpretation of this policy into a tangible reality. The general outlines and objectives of this policy as well as its general characteristics are clear.

The clarity of the objective has helped in drawing up short-term plans and setting specific aims, most of which the government has managed to achieve, although that there are still some points which need further clarification.

General Responsibility

The first and most important characteristic of this policy is that it has given all sectors—public, private, and mixed

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sectors—an equal role in imports and exports. Restricting imports to the public sector is no longer possible under the new strategy which seeks to provide goods, commodities, and capital goods for the entire public.

Thus, the private sector has also been called upon to assume the responsibility of imports and exports, and good use was made of its big financial resources to finance imports. Thus, it has been possible to lessen the enormous burdens that were shouldered by the public sector.

Giving the private sector an increasing role in foreign trade was an essential matter and a pressing demand in order to meet the needs of society and to eliminate the constraints that had appeared with regard to some commodities. The private sector was allowed to import goods and commodities gradually. The restriction was canceled in a gradual and systematic manner according to actual needs in order to serve the growth in production and to ensure basic needs for the citizens.

The percentage of the private sector's share in the import-export trade has increased to more than 60 percent, if we exclude oil. The government is now seeking to cancel the principle of restriction completely with the exception of a limited list of commodities which it wants to retain for certain specific reasons. But again, all this is essentially linked to the needs and movement of production.

By allowing the private sector to import different types of goods and commodities, this policy achieved one of the most important aims of our economic policy, which is to entrench the principle of economic diversity.

Freedom of Trade

The second important characteristic of our foreign trade policy is the cancellation of the restrictive policy, thereby permitting all sectors—public, private, and mixed—to take part in importing and exporting all types of goods and commodities. While that policy had once applied to many types of commodities, this is not the case anymore, which indicates a qualitative step toward liberating trade.

The Guidance Committee has been able to restructure imports and exports. Permitting the importation of all types of commodities which were once banned in the private sector is a qualitative move, the positive effects of which we all feel.

First, the private sector was permitted to import foodstuffs for the citizens such as rice, ghee, sugar, etc... Then it was permitted to import industrial and agricultural capital goods, which have helped overcome the constraints and kept the wheel of production turning. Under the old restrictive policy, production in many private sector firms had been disrupted. The supply of capital goods and the diversification of products has led to a reduction in the cost of production, and therefore in prices.

Linking Imports to Exports

The third distinct characteristic of our foreign trade is the adoption of the principle of linking imports to exports. This step did not come out of a vacuum but resulted from a thorough study of the market reality and the movement of foreign trade.

This measure was made essential by the transformation of our economy from an import-based economy to one which is based on promoting exports and liberating trade.

The import-based economy had a negative effect on production due to lack of liquidity and scarcity of investments. The quality of products had deteriorated below international standards and the industries lacked modern technologies. It was only due to the policy of government subsidy, fixed exchange rates, and flexible credit policies that it was possible, to a certain degree, to ensure fairly cheap commodities for the citizens. The high cost of production had to be borne by the state treasury.

The move from closed-door to open-door policy had to be gradual, because the volume of imports increased to very high rates and the government had to intervene—hence the important decision to encourage exports as the best means to achieve a balance between exports and imports, reduce the deficit in the balance of trade, and to achieve a trade surplus if possible.

The government adopted the principle of linking imports to exports as the best way in the current phase to increase exports and to achieve a balance between exports and imports. The government began gradually to permit private sector to import capital goods and other commodities.

Linking imports to exports was not an end in itself but a temporary means to overcome the negative effects of the steady increase in imports which was dictated by public demand.

The government is now exerting intensive efforts to increase exports. So, despite businessmen's objection to the idea of linking imports to exports, maintaining this policy in the current phase is essential and useful until the government is able to reach a level of exports which is equal to or more than the volume of imports.

The Same Privileges

It has been observed that the government has granted the same privileges to the public and private sectors. It permitted the public sector to finance the importation of capital goods, spare parts, and machinery from its export revenues and to participate in all import-export activities side by side with the private sector.

The problem today is no longer one of prohibition or restriction, but of competition and flexibility, which has highlighted the weakness of some public sector managements.

Encouraging Production

The Guidance Committee has given increased attention to the question of production. It believes that directing

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import-export trade toward serving the sublime objective of increasing production is a very essential step.

Thus, the committee has adopted the principle of protectionism. Any item which is produced locally is banned from importation in order to encourage the national industry. Protecting local products is a policy which has been upheld by the government for a long time. This policy has produced positive results. Any producer can request protection if he can prove his ability to cover the market's needs without adversely affecting the standard and price of his product.

Protectionism has aroused strong differences between its supporters and opposers. Opinions have differed on how to implement protectionism. Some support protectionism through prohibition and restriction, and others support protectionism by other methods such as raising import duties and so forth in order to maintain the standard and quality of the product.

The Results

One of the most important results of this policy is the growth in production. After all capital goods have been secured, and as a result of other encouragement policies that permitted the private sector to establish scores of productive projects and firms, a big improvement has been seen in the quality and quantity of production. Products increased in number and variety, and the producers turned to export. They went about searching for foreign markets to show the big improvement that has occurred.

The structure of the exports has also changed. While in the past exports were mainly raw materials, they are now largely manufactured and semi-manufactured goods.

If we compare the value of exports and imports to the Gross Domestic Product, we will find that a great improvement. The index has risen from 20 percent some five [?years] ago to more than 38 percent now, which is a very good ratio.

These positive results can be observed everywhere. Our markets now contain a wide variety of goods, and the consumer has many options.

Perhaps, the most important result is the increase in trade between Syria and other countries in the world. No one can ignore the importance of this increase in per capita income and the creation of new jobs.

Paper Publishes Text of General Election Law

JN2708081894 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Jul 94 p 3

["Text" of General Election Law No. 26, dated 14 April 1973]

General Election Law

Issued under Legislative Decree No. 26 dated 14 April 1973.
And amended under the following legislative decrees:
No. 24 dated 3 October 1981
No. 2 dated 9 January 1986
No. 4 dated 12 April 1990
No. 5 dated 15 April 1990

The president of the republic, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, decrees as follows:

Chapter One: Definitions

Article 1: (as amended under Article 1 of Legislative Decree No. 2 dated 9 January 1986)

The following expressions in the course of the application of this legislative decree shall carry the meanings stated hereunder:

- The minister: Interior minister.
- The worker: Whoever works in the government, the public sector, mixed sector, or private sector for a wage.
- The peasant: Whoever tills the land himself, or with the cooperation of others, with cultivation as the main source of his livelihood, and is not covered by the Agrarian Reform Law and its amendments.

Chapter Two: The Right To Vote

Article 2: The People's Assembly is elected by direct secret ballot by all voters who enjoy the right to vote under this legislative decree. Each voter shall have one vote.

Article 3: The right to vote is enjoyed by every Syrian Arab citizen, whether male or female, who has attained the age of 18 years at the beginning of the year in which the election is held, unless he is deprived of this right under this legislative decree and existing legislations.

Article 4: The right to vote is withheld from:

A. Those who are declared legally incompetent, during the period of incompetence.

B. Those who are mentally ill, during the period of their illness.

C. Those who are convicted under Articles 63, 65, and 66 of the Penal Code or for a dishonorable crime.

Article 5: The right to vote shall be withheld from Army soldiers and policemen while in the service, except those who are nominated under the provisions of this legislative decree.

Chapter Three: Electoral Rolls and Voting Place:

(Articles 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 contained in this chapter are canceled under Article 3 of Legislative Decree No. 24 dated 3 October 1981.)

Chapter Four: The Electoral Constituency and the Number of Seats

Article 12: The election of the members of the People's Assembly is held on the basis of the electoral constituency. Each constituency shall elect a number of candidates equal to the number of seats allocated for it.

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Article 13: Each governorate shall be considered as an electoral constituency, with the exception of Aleppo Governorate, which is divided into two constituencies:

A. The City of Aleppo.

B. The Districts of Aleppo Governorate.

Article 14: A. The People's Assembly shall consist of the representatives of the following sectors:

i) Workers and Peasants.

ii) Other factions of the people.

B. The proportion of workers and peasants in the People's Assembly shall be at least 50 percent of the total number of the seats. This proportion is not conditional on the distribution of seats between the two sectors in the single electoral constituency.

Article 15: (Canceled under Article 1 of Legislative Decree No. 4 dated 12 April 1990 and replaced by the following)

The number of the People's Assembly members is fixed at 250. This number is distributed among the electoral constituencies as follows:

Electoral Constituency	Number of Seats Assigned in the People's Assembly for Each Constituency
Damascus Governorate	29
Damascus Rural Area Governorate	19
City of Aleppo	20
Districts of Aleppo Governorate	32
Hims Governorate	23
Hamah Governorate	22
Latakia Governorate	17
Idlib Governorate	18
Tartus Governorate	13
Al-Raqqah Governorate	8
Dayr al-Zawr Governorate	14
Al-Hasakah Governorate	14
Dar'a Governorate	10
Al-Suwayda' Governorate	6
Al-Qunaytirah Governorate	5

Article 16: Election day shall be fixed in accordance with a decree that shall cite the number of members assigned for each of the two sectors mentioned in Article 14 above with regard to each electoral constituency. The decree shall be published 30 days before election day.

Chapter Five: Conditions and Procedures for Nomination

Article 17: The right to nomination for membership of the People's Assembly is enjoyed by every Syrian Arab citizen, whether male or female, including military men and other factions who are covered under the provisions of Article 5 of this legislative decree provided he fulfill the following conditions:

A. He has enjoyed Syrian Arab citizenship for at least five years on the day he submits his application for nomination.

B. (As amended under Article 1 of Legislative Decree No. 24 dated 3 October 1981) He enjoys the right to vote in accordance with the provisions of this legislative decree and other existing legal provisions in this regard.

C. He has attained the age of 25 years at the beginning of the year in which the election is held.

D. He can read and write. The levels of competence shall be determined under the guidelines to be issued by the minister.

Article 18: A. Ministers may nominate themselves for membership of the People's Assembly while continuing in their posts.

B. Governors and police officers may nominate themselves for an electoral constituency other than the one in which they are posted, provided they are given special leave without pay from nomination day until the end of the election process.

However, if they nominated themselves for the electoral constituency in which they are posted, they shall be considered as having resigned and they shall return to their posts in the case of their failure.

C. Other employees of the government and its various establishments as well as of the public and mixed sectors may nominate themselves, provided they are granted the leave stipulated in the previous paragraph.

Article 19: (As amended by Legislative Decree No. 5 dated 15 April 1990)

Whoever wishes to nominate himself for membership of the People's Assembly shall personally submit a written application to the governor to this effect within 10 days from the day that follows the date of the publication of the decree fixing election day against a temporary receipt mentioning the date of the submission of the application.

Article 20: A. The governor shall refer the nomination applications received to the Nomination Committee within 24 hours from the date the applications were registered at the Governor's office.

B. A Nomination Committee shall be formed in each electoral constituency under a decision by the minister. It shall be chaired by the governor and include as members: a magistrate to be named by the minister of justice and a representative for the workers and peasants sector.

C. The Nomination Committee shall undertake the following:

i) Study the legality of the nomination applications.

ii) Determine the sector to which the candidate belongs.

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iii) Consider the nomination applications in light of previous Paragraphs i and ii and give the candidate a final receipt signed by the governor on the acceptance of his nomination within five days at the maximum from the date of the registration of his nomination application.

Article 21: The applicant for nomination may contest the Nomination Committee's decision before the Court of Appeal in the governorate within two days from the date of his being notified of the decision, or from the date of the expiry of the period fixed for considering nomination applications. The court shall issue its final decision on his contestation in the deliberations room within three days from its submission.

Article 22: The Nomination Committee shall compile a report containing the names of those whose nominations have been accepted. The governor shall announce a list with their names, arranged alphabetically according to each sector.

Article 23: A voter may contest the nomination of others within two days from the day following the date of the announcement of the names of candidates before the judicial authority stipulated in Article 27 of this legislative decree. This authority shall issue its final decision on this contestation within three days.

Chapter Six: Election Campaigning

Article 24: A. Upon receiving the final receipt, the candidate may issue pamphlets announcing his nomination and statements on his plans and aims and all that concerns his work program, provided they carry his signature. He should submit three copies of these pamphlets and statements to the governor.

B. Election campaigning shall stop 48 hours before election day.

C. The Damascus Governorate and the municipalities shall fix special places for posting electoral photos, statements, and proclamations. It is prohibited to post these items on the walls of public and private buildings and outside the places assigned for them. It is also prohibited to write the names of candidates or any election ad on walls. Contraveners shall be subject to the punishments stipulated in this legislative decree.

Article 25: It is permissible during the election campaigning period to hold election meetings in accordance with the existing laws and regulations and the guidelines which are to be issued by the minister.

Chapter Seven: The Election Process

Article 26: A Central Committee shall be formed in each electoral constituency under a decision by the minister. The committee shall be chaired by the governor and include as members: a magistrate to be named by the minister of justice and a representative of the Executive Bureau in the governorate to be nominated by the bureau. The committee's tasks shall be to:

A. Fix polling stations.

B. Appoint Election Committees.

C. Consider any complaints, objections, and grievances against the decisions of the Election Committees that are submitted during the election process and make final decisions on them.

D. Count the election results arriving from the polling stations of each electoral constituency.

E. Undertake the other tasks stipulated in this legislative decree.

Article 27: The polling stations shall be fixed and the chairmen and members of the committees supervising these stations shall be appointed at least four days before election day.

Article 28: A. Each polling station shall be supervised by a committee consisting of a chairman and two members to be chosen by the Central Committee from government employees.

B. The chairmen and members of the election committees shall, before assuming their work, take an oath before a magistrate that they will undertake their task truly, faithfully, and with absolute neutrality.

C. If either member of the committee is absent, the chairman will appoint a replacement from the reserve members. If such a reserve member is not available, the chairman may appoint a replacement from one of the voters after making him take an oath. If the chairman of the committee or the entire committee is absent, the direct administrative chairman shall immediately appoint a new committee and its members shall take the oath provided for in the above paragraph before him.

D. It is impermissible for the committee to include the representative of a candidate in the electoral constituency, and for the chairman or either member of the committee to be related to the candidate, down to fourth degree relationship.

Article 29: The chairman of the Election Committee shall undertake the maintenance of order in the polling station. He may take all measures to guarantee the freedom of voting. Within his post, he enjoys the capacity of a judicial authority. He may also seek the help of security forces when necessary.

Article 30: A candidate or his representative may, through a written letter endorsed by the governor, attend and observe the voting process and the counting of votes. No one else has the right to exercise this right.

Article 31: (As amended under Article 1 of Legislative Decree No. 24 dated 3 October 1981) On the first day of the election, the voting shall begin at 0700 hours and it shall continue nonstop until 2000 hours when the ballot boxes shall be closed by the seal of the committee and signed by its chairman. The boxes shall be guarded overnight by security men in the presence of any of the candidates or their representatives. The voting shall be

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resumed at 0700 hours on the following morning after removing the seal on the boxes in the presence of the election committee and the representatives of the candidates who are present. The voting shall continue until 1400 hours on that day.

Article 32: Envelopes of a standard type and color and made of paper that does not reveal the ballot paper inside shall be provided.

Article 33: (As amended under Article 1 of Legislative Decree No. 24 dated 3 October 1981)

A. The voter shall exercise his right to vote on the basis of his Identity Card in any polling station at his place of registration, residence, or work.

B. The chairman of the Election Committee shall give the voter an envelop signed by him and stamped with the seal of the committee. The voter shall then enter the secret booth to exercise his right to vote.

C. The voter shall place the ballot paper in the envelop after entering the secret booth, whether the paper is printed or written and whether he has prepared it previously or written it inside the aforementioned booth.

D. The name of the voter shall be entered in the electoral roll of the polling station after the voter has dropped the ballot envelop into the ballot box.

E. The voter's old Identity Card shall be punched after the voting. As for the new Identity Cards, the interior minister shall issue special guidelines on them.

Article 34: (Canceled under Article 2 of Legislative Decree No. 24 dated 3 October 1981)

Chapter Eight: Counting of Votes and Announcement of Results

Article 35: (Canceled under Article 2 of Legislative Decree No. 24 dated 3 October 1981)

Article 36: (As amended under Article 1 of Legislative Decree No.24 dated 3 October 1981)

At 1400 hours on the second day of the election, the Election Committee shall begin opening the boxes publicly and counting the envelopes contained. If it is proven that their number is more or less than the number of voters who cast their votes by over five percent, the voting in that polling station shall be considered as canceled and shall be repeated on the following day.

If the increase is less than five percent, a number of envelopes in the same propoqtion of this increase shall be destroyed without looking at their contents. If the number of the envelopes is less than five percent of the total number of voters, this shortage shall not be considered.

Article 37: The envelopes shall be opened and the ballot papers taken out by the chairman of the committee in the presence of its members and the candidates or their representatives who wish to be present.

Article 38: The ballot paper shall be considered valid under the following cases:

A. If it contains a number of candidates equal to the number of seats allocated for each of the two sectors according to the distribution which is specified by the decree provided for in Article 16 of this legislative decree.

B. If the ballot paper contains the names of a number of candidates exceeding the number of candidates to be elected from each sector in the electoral constituency, the extra names shall be deleted from the end and the ballot paper shall be considered correct for the rest of the names.

C. If the ballot paper contains a number of candidates less than the number required to be elected from each sector in the electoral constituency, the ballot paper shall be considered correct for the names listed on it.

D. If the ballot contains the name of an unnominated person, his name shall be deleted only.

E. If the ballot paper mentions the name of a candidate several times, the name shall be counted once.

Article 39: The ballot paper shall be consider invalid under the following cases:

A. If the envelop is not stamped with the seal of the Election Committee.

B. If more than one ballot paper is found inside the envelop unless they are similar.

C. If the ballot paper contains the name of the voter, his signature, or any identification sign.

As for the ballot papers in which names of the candidates are not clear, but they contain sufficient evidences discounting any other implications, they be shall considered valid.

Article 40: The counting of votes shall be carried out continuously in the polling stations and the results shall be announced publicly. Each committee shall then compile a report containing in particular the names of the candidates and the number of votes won by each of them and the decisions and the measures it has taken during the progress of the election process. This report shall immediately be referred to the Central Committee in the governorate.

Article 41: The Election Committee shall consider all objections that are submitted to it on the election process or the counting of votes. Its decisions in this regard shall be contestable before the Central Committee of the electoral constituency.

Article 42: Immediately upon receiving the committee's reports, the Central Committee shall count the election

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results in all the polling stations in the presence of any number of candidates or their representatives. The Central Committee shall compile its own general report and submit a copy of this report to the minister after immediately notifying him about the names of the winners and the number of votes obtained by each one of them.

Article 43: (As amended under Article 1 of Legislative Decree No. 24 dated 3 October 1981)

If the Central Committee decides the invalidity of the election in any polling station for violating procedures and the law or for security reasons, the voting shall be repeated in that station on the following day, unless the interior minister decides to set another date. The second voting shall be confined to those who have previously cast their votes and whose names are contained in the station's electoral roll. In such a case, the announcement of the election results in that polling station shall be withheld until the second voting is held in that station.

Article 44: The candidates shall be classified under their respective sectors according to the number of valid votes won by each of them. The leading candidates from each sector shall be considered as winners according to the number of seats allocated for each sector. If two or more candidates (in the last seats of each sector) obtain equal number of votes, a lot shall be drawn.

Article 45: Candidates shall be considered as elected unopposed if their number is not more than the number of seats allocated for either sector in the electoral constituency. In such a case, no voting shall be held for the sector whose members have been elected unopposed. This shall be announced to the voters before election day.

Article 46: The interior minister shall announce the election results in all electoral constituencies. The president of the republic shall issue a decree naming the winners and the membership of the People's Assembly. The decree shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Chapter Nine: Cases of Vacancy of Membership

Article 47: A. The seat of a member of the People's Assembly shall be considered as vacant under the following cases:

i) Death from the date it takes place.

ii) Resignation from the date of its acceptance by the Assembly.

iii) Loss of any of the nomination conditions from the date of the issuance of the Assembly's decision withholding membership.

B. The election of a vacant seat shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Article 59 of the Constitution and this legislative decree.

Article 48: If any of the winning members of the People's Assembly refrain from taking the constitutional oath or if the People's Assembly decides to cancel the membership of any member due to the invalidity of his election, the next winning candidate in his sector shall be made the member in the Assembly by decree.

Chapter Ten: Electoral Crimes

Article 49: The provisions of Articles 319 and 329 of the Penal Code shall be applied against crimes related to the elections.

Article 50: The punishment stipulated in Article 756 of the Penal Code shall apply to any person who is requested to take part in a committee, or assume an assignment related to the election process and has defaulted or rejected the part or assignment without a reason acceptable to the minister or the governor concerned.

Article 51: A prison sentence of 10 days to one month shall apply to anyone posting election statements, photos, or ads outside the places allocated for them. The sentence shall be doubled if these items are posted on the walls of public buildings, monuments, relics, or places of worship.

A prison sentence of two months to one year shall apply if the announcement is by means of writing on walls.

Article 3 of Legislative Decree No. 24 dated 3 October 1981 stipulates the following:

A prison sentence of two months to two years shall apply to:

A. Whoever votes and knows that he cannot vote or that his right to vote has been withheld under existing laws or some judicial decisions.

B. Whoever votes more than once.

Chapter Eleven: General and Transitional Rules

Article 52: It is impermissible to combine membership in the People's Assembly with the post of governor or with the membership of any local council or any post or work in the government and its establishments and all quarters of the public and mixed sectors, with the exception of membership in the cabinet, teaching in universities, researching in research centers, and membership in the executive bureaus of popular organizations.

Article 53: The membership term in the People's Assembly, with regard to civilian and military employees in the government and its establishments, is considered a period of active service, provided the members pay their retirement contributions during this term according to the law. This term shall be considered in calculating seniority and promotions. In such a case, the member of the People's Assembly shall be considered as an employee on leave and his post or work shall be retained.

Article 54: Petitions, applications, objections, grievances, decisions, rules, receipts, statements, and announcements provided for in this legislative decree, especially those related to the electoral rolls, nomination,

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election campaigning, voting, and counting votes shall be exempted of judicial and revenue fees and stamps. Documents obtained from official departments, especially the civil register and judicial register secretariats for the purposes of elections, and generally all pertinent documents, shall also be exempted of fees.

Article 55: (As amended under Article 2 of Legislative Decree No. 4 dated 12 April 1990)

Expenses and compensations which are required by the election process are excluded from the provisions of existing laws and regulations, especially Legislative Decree No. 228 of 1969 and Employees Law No. 1 of 1985 and its amendments and the Deposits Ordinance.

Article 56: The minister shall issue the necessary decisions and guidelines for implementing the provisions of this legislative decree.

Article 57: Legislative Decree No. 17 dated 10 September 1949 and its amendments and all provisions contrary to this legislative decree are hereby canceled.

Article 58: This legislative decree shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall come into force as of the date of its publication.

[Dated] Damascus, 14 April 1973

[Signed] President of the Republic Hafiz al-Asad.

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Afghanistan

Rockets Kill 5, Injure 48; Air Force Retaliates

LD0809182094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] During the past 24 hours five citizens of Kabul were martyred and 48 others were injured by rockets fired by the Golboddin-Dostam militias.

Kabul garrison reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the infamous militias fired 147 rockets and shells on the residential and crowded areas of the city during the past 24 hours. As a result of these savage attacks, five citizens including a woman who was praying, were martyred, and 48 others were injured.

The militias' rockets also destroyed three residential houses. The Air Force of the Islamic army retaliated against the militias' rocket attacks by bombing their positions and fortifications. No report is yet available on the militias' losses.

Official Denies Opposition Captures Lowgar Province

LD0809202394 Tehran IRNA in English 1853 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 8, IRNA—Afghan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lafra'i here on Thursday [8 September] rejected a claim made by Kabul government's opposition factions on Monday that they had captured Lowgar province.

Lafra'i in an exclusive interview with IRNA here Thursday said that government's opponents had launched an offensive on Lowgar but they failed to advance due to the resistance of the Hezb Jami'at-e Eslami [Islamic Society Party] forces. He said that Borhanoddin Rabbani's government would spare no effort to support measures aimed at ending clashes in Afghanistan.

However he said that efforts could be more fruitful if they were more coordinated. Lafra'i was of course referring to the activities of seminar in Herat in which 700 of ulema, leaders, political personalities and people's representatives took part.

Participants at the seminar, organized by Supreme Council of Herat and Governor of Herat Province Commander Isma'il Khan, agreed on the formation of a commission to arrange preliminaries for holding grand assembly of Afghan representatives, known as as Loya Jerga.

Lafra'i said that Loya Jerga would be established in future by members of political commission and the opponents would have no choice but to go along with the assembly's bylaws.

On the reasons for Kabul government representatives' refusal to participate in the joint session of Afghan groups' representatives, Lafra'i said that based on Leadership Council's approval at the outset of mujahideen groups' victory over communist government, the Islamic National Movement was not considered legal. The movement is led by General 'Abdol-Rashid Dostam and in alliance with Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's faction is fighting against forces loyal to Kabul Government.

Lafra'i, who is here to take part at the extraordinary annual meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference's foreign ministers, termed recent activities by the United Nations secretary general's especial envoy in Afghanistan Mahmoud Mestiri as "lacking definite strategy and programme."

Lafra'i said that even if he (Mestiri) had been successful in organizing a joint session to be attended by Afghan factions, it would have borne no results. Mestiri had on September second, just at the end of the second round of his six-week tenure, announced in a statement that his mission had ended in failure.

Conflicting Sides Hold Separate Talks With Ministers

LD0809212494 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 8, IRNA—Various Afghan groups including warring factions have had separate meetings with Iranian and Pakistani foreign ministers, informed source told IRNA.

Representatives and allies of President Borhanoddin Rabbani discussed matters pertaining to the present conflict in Afghanistan and the reasons that made it further complicated. Afghan junior Minister for Foreign Affairs Najibollah Lafra'i told IRNA after the meeting that they talked about the "violations of Islamabad accord."

All Afghan factions and groups had signed an agreement in islamabad in March 1993 in the presense of representatives of Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, representatives of Supreme Coordination Council led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, arch-foe of Rabbani, have also had a meeting with 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Asif Ahmad Ali. The sources said the anti-Rabbani alliance stated their position of Islamabad accord. They opined that Rabbani's rule was unlawful for the Islamabad accord was meant only for 18 months.

Rabbani blames his opponents of violating the agreement stating that present situation was not conducive for the transfer of power. Informed sources had earlier reported that Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia might hold joint sitting on Afghanistan on the sidelines of OIC meeting.

Government Forces Clear Faryab Province Areas

LD0809190794 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] As a result of mopping-up operations by the Islamic Army and the mojahedin, a large area in Faryab Province was cleared of the Golboddin-Dostam militias. According to reports reaching the Bakhtar Information

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Agency from Faryab Province, the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic Army succeeded yesterday in clearing the villages of Samarkhas, Dedana, and Zerbolaq of the notorious militias, imposing heavy losses on the enemy.

As a result of an operation carried out under the command of Qomandan 'Abdollah Tofan, Saranwal 'Abdol Haq, Mola Mostafa, Haji Alam, and Gholam Mahbob, [words indistinct] a large number of weapons of various grades were also seized.

India

UN Secretary General Arrives on Three-Day Visit

BK0809162494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, arrived in New Delhi this evening on a three-day visit. He was received at the airport by the minister of state for environment, Mr. Kamalnath; the foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan; and other senior officials. Talking to newspersons, the secretary general said the purpose of his visit is to reinforce relations between India and the United Nations. Mr. Butrus-Ghali thanked the government and people of India for the contribution of Indian troops in peacekeeping operations all over the world and for the assistance rendered by India to the United Nations.

This is the second visit of Mr. Butrus-Ghali as UN secretary general to New Delhi. He will deliver the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memorial Lecture tomorrow.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad earlier today, the UN secretary general said that India and Pakistan are major members of the world body and it is in the interest of the UN that the two countries have good relations.

'Important' Jamaat-i-Islami Leader Arrested

BK0909034794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says there is a positive change in the situation in the Kashmir valley, with people getting disenchanted with the militant activities. Talking to newspersons at Karalpura in Kupwara District, he said the government is keen on having the assembly elections in the state at the earliest.

In Kashmir, an important leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami, Qazi Abdullah, has been arrested. A large quantity of incriminating material has been seized from the place of his arrest in Haiderpura locality. The material includes computer floppies and printed matter showing requisition of arms from Pakistan by the militant outfit Hizbul Mojahedin, a close associate of the Jamaat-i-Islami. A letter showed that some Kashmiri youths were to be sent to Pakistan for specialized arms training.

Eight militants have been killed in an operation launched by the security forces in Kunthal area in Doda District. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent this morning that the operation was launched on a specific information. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered during the operation. One more militant was killed in an encounter in Dharvesa in Doda District.

Iran

Editorial on Khamene'i's Emphasis on Media Role

NC0909083394 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES (International Weekly) in English 1 Sep 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Leader Emphasizes Vital Role of Media"]

[Text] Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on Tuesday evening [30 August] received President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani along with his cabinet colleagues, capping Government Week.

Government Week is observed to pay tribute to martyred president Mohammad Ali Rajaie and Prime Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Javad Bahonar, who fell victims to the terrorist Monafeqin in 1981. This tragedy speaks for itself regarding the hardships the newly-born islamic Republic underwent. The more important aspect of the tragedy is that there is no end to it.

Since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, plot after plot has been fomented to destroy what the Iranian nation had achieved after unprecedented sacrifices, toppling the most powerful pro-Western Iranian monarchy. The Islamic system was established under the leadership of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeyni.

The Islamic system severed the hands of the imperialist powers, whose interests were in jeopardy, not only in Iran, but in the far-flung areas of the globe.

The imperialist powers, particularly the Americans and Zionists, are justified in devising plots against Iran, becoming its sworn enemies. Whatever conspiracies they had brewing, they have tested against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Speaking to the Rafsanjani cabinet, the Supreme Leader reiterated that, "Iran will never succumb to any power." Ayatollah Khamene'i, however, asked the official broadcasting media to become more potent in countering anti-Iran propaganda, and keep the nation aware of the facts.

He acknowledged the performance of the Rafsanjani government, but warned that the nation is not fully aware of what was, is and will be done for them.

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The Islamic Republic News Agency and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting shoulder great responsibilities. To accomplish the aspirations of Islam and the revolution, they must be present on domestic and foreign scenes on time to counter anti-revolutionary trends.

Granted that the Rafsanjani government has feathers in its cap, it has yet to address the basic problems of the nation, such as the day-to-day economic difficulties, inflation, unemployment, and better medical and educational facilities.

The government has done a lot, but the people expect more, and their expectations should receive priority.

'Extensive Approval' for Iranian Speaker at ICPD

LD0809190294 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] A speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri, head of the Iranian delegation at the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], was met by extensive approval of the audience. According to reports received here, during his speech he put forward the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran on abortion and health training.

At the end of his speech the head of the Iranian delegation officially called on the Norwegian prime minister to change her view on abortion and to withdraw her comments from the records of the conference.

In her opening speech the Norwegian prime minister had said religion was sometimes an obstacle to solving women's problems.

In reaction to the comment Hojjat ol-Eslam Taskhiri said that she had attacked the religious beliefs of [other] countries.

Ambassador Comments on Relations With Vatican

NC0809202094 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Sep 94 p 12

["Exclusive" interview with Mohammad Masjed Jame'i, ambassador to the Vatican, by unidentified ETTELA'AT (International) correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Correspondent] What was the reaction of the Vatican echelons on the murder of two Iranian pastors by the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] members? Specifically, were any steps taken by the Vatican to condemn this action after the members of that group confessed to the murders?

[Masjed Jame'i] The fact is that the Catholic press and the people connected to the Vatican did not disseminate even the report on the murders and were silent on the topic, even though they reported similar cases extensively. For numerous reasons, they considered it in their interest and benefit not to mention it when the issue was quite ambiguous and later when the plot was exposed. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Could you please tell us the status of Iranian-Vatican relations and the effect of the issue of the joint conference of Iran and Christianity (in view of the differences among the various churches on the one hand and the Vatican's stance on the wave of Islamism on the other) on Iran-Vatican relations?

[Masjed Jame'i] To those well versed in the study of human sciences and the historical, cultural, and theological issues of Europe, Iran is more than a country. They refer to it as "Persia" rather than Iran. [passage omitted]

The first conference with Christianity has not elicited much attention. Second, our relations with various churches has resulted in an increase of respect rather than arousing any animosity from the Vatican. Those officials realize that the Iranian nation is flexible and willing to enter into talks, and this feeling is reciprocated.

Thus, our talks with the Catholic Church or any other churches will only generate greater respect among them. Therefore, we will not have any problems in this respect.

As for principled Islamism, [fundamentalism] I should state that this is a question that needs to be answered at length and cannot be explained in a succinct manner. They directly and indirectly (mostly indirectly) criticize principled Islamism at times. However, they are not amateurs and they realize the importance of Iran, its history, and of having cordial relations with Iran more than all the Europeans. They believe that a nation that adheres to its principles, its nobility (also individuals), and is not willing to change to please others, deserves greater respect than those who resort to anything merely to conform with others. [passage omitted]

Kordestan 'Antirevolutionary' Groups Surrender

LD0809134394 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., Sept. 8, IRNA—Some 168 members of the outlawed anti-revolutionary groups have surrendered themselves to the Iranian forces over the past year, a provincial security official told reporters here Thursday [8 September].

The security official said that the outlawed grouplets were in such a chaotic situation that their members have been forced to give bribes in a bid to abandon the groups and leave the country for Europe.

He said that the situation in Iran's Kordestan Province was favorable compared to that of other Kurdish populated regions in the neighboring countries.

The inclination towards the system of government in the Iranian province of Kurdestan is very high while confusion and chaos loom over other Kurdish inhabited area in neighboring states, he said.

The officials, quoting reports reaching here from Iraq, said that gouplets [as received] in the Iraqi Kurdistan

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were now in a miserable situation and people there wanted those groups to leave their areas.

He also warned of the spying activities of western intelligence organizations which he said were being done under the cover of charity organizations.

Recently, he said, two espionage networks associated with the Iraqi regime which attempted to plant bombs at key centers across the country were arrested by the security officers in the province of Kordestan.

Over the past year, ten gangs engaged in smuggling and printing counterfeit hard currencies have been busted and 38 people arrested in this connection.

Some 150,000 U.S. dollars, 4,000 counterfeit U.S. dollars and three million Iraqi dinars were seized from the gangs, he said.

Pakistan

Bhutto on Gaza Visit, Terrorism, Weapons

JN0909094494 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Sep 94 pp 27, 1

[Report by Lima Nabil in Cairo]

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said she did not cancel her visit to Gaza but that circumstances prevented her from making that visit as scheduled.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y before leaving Cairo, after taking part in the International Conference for Population and Development, Bhutto added: My visit to Gaza is still on and I will make it at the first possible opportunity.

Bhutto stressed her support for the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the Jordanian-Israeli agreement as steps on the road to achieving a just peace and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East region—a settlement that will reinforce the commitment of the negotiating parties.

However, she noted that any solution that does not include the issues of Jerusalem and Israeli settlements and that is not based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 will remain an incomplete solution. She stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

She said: We sincerely hope that a settlement will go hand in hand with international pledges and will have positive results. We also hope for the economic prosperity that such a settlement will bring to the states in the region.

As for the conflict over Kashmir, Bhutto said: I committed myself to UN resolutions and to a peaceful settlement to the conflict. It now up to the Indian leadership to accept the international community's resolutions.

Bhutto announced that Pakistan will not allow the use of its territories by groups against any country. Responding to a question about Islamic groups that received training in Afghanistan, Bhutto said: We are conducting careful inspections of these groups and we will not allow any terrorist act from our territory.

As for the campaign launched by the Western camp against Pakistan's weapons program, Bhutto said: Every nation has the right to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. We are committed to that and we believe the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in Southeast Asia will support the region's stability and security. We will continue to work toward reaching arrangements to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Southeast Asia.

She added that Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program is designed to meet the constant needs for energy. She said: We support disarmament in the region and our goal is to achieve peace and national security.

Bhutto Views Terrorism, Nuclear Capabilities

NC0909063994 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto by 'Abbas al-Tarabili; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Tarabili] A 50-year conflict rages between Pakistan and India over Kashmir. We often read about uprisings in Islamic Kashmir and about retaliatory operations by the Indian Government. Victims fall and villages are burned in these operations. We also read about memorandums submitted by the Pakistani Government to the United Nations. What is the ideal solution to this issue, which poisons relations between Pakistan and India? Could a UN-sponsored referendum be acceptable to the parties?

[Bhutto] The solution of the Jammu-Kashmir issue depends on how determined the Indian political leadership is to accept the UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and accept the fait accompli. A solution to the Jammu-Kashmir problem could be found that is acceptable to the people of Kashmir and the peoples of India and Pakistan if India honors the pledges made by its leaders to the international community and to the Kashmir people.

We are committed to achieving a peaceful solution to the dispute and our stance is based on the UN Security Council resolutions, which allow the Kashmir people to enjoy the right to self-determination through a neutral referendum sponsored by the United nations.

[Al-Tarabili] Pakistan now has a greater role to play in Central Asia following the emergence of the Islamic republics after the disintegration of the Soviet Union. There are attempts to pull these republics in this or that direction. Now that Afghanistan is preoccupied with its internal problems, Pakistan is expected to play a major role in this regard. Does the Pakistani leadership have a

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specific stance to promote inter-Islamic relations with these republics? And can an integrated Islamic economic union be established in Central Asia?

[Bhutto] Pakistan's role in Central Asia is to revive the trade, political, cultural, and historic relations with the Central Asian countries. Accordingly, Pakistan adopted several concrete measures. It opened four diplomatic missions run by ambassadors and one run by a charge d'affaires. Pakistani Airlines is running weekly flights to Tashkent, Almaty, Ashgabat, and Baku. And Central Asian countries also benefited from loans granted by Pakistan in 1991.

The Central Asian countries are taking part in the technological assistance program organized by Pakistan. This program is aimed at transferring these states from a centralized economy to a market economy.

The system of governments in Central Asia is secular and this represents no problem to us in Pakistan. We look forward to establishing economic relations with these countries. When peace is achieved in Afghanistan, economic cooperation with the Central Asian countries will increase.

[Al-Tarabili] Egypt's relations with Pakistan are strong and profound. But the presence of extremist Egyptians who worked in Afghanistan causes problems for the Egyptian people and Government. These Egyptians operate inside Pakistan against Egyptian security, thus threatening Egyptian-Pakistani relations. Why does the Pakistani Government keep these Egyptians on its territory, and is there anything preventing their handover?

[Bhutto] In the early eighties many foreigners came to Pakistan to take part in the Afghan war. In addition to the Afghan refugees, many Arab volunteers came to Peshawar to assist the Afghan resistance groups against the Soviet aggression. And nongovernmental and voluntary organizations came to Peshawar to give humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees.

After the evacuation of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, the Pakistani Government made it clear that the jihad was over and that all foreigners with no genuine reason to stay should leave Pakistan. But Pakistan received complaints from some friendly Arab countries that some of their citizens might be involved in activities directed against their governments. We expressed our determination to cooperate with these countries and not to allow anyone to use Pakistani territory to carry out terrorist operations.

The Pakistani Government knows of Egypt's concern. We will allow no one to use our territory against a friendly Muslim country. To implement this policy we conducted broad search campaigns against all nongovernmental organizations operating in Peshawar with the aim of closing those organizations that are not conducting fruitful and constructive relief work. We also asked all the Egyptian, Tunisian, and Algerian citizens working in these organizations to leave Peshawar.

I am pleased to announce that Pakistan and Egypt signed an extradition agreement in Islamabad on 14 July 1994. We will honor all its terms once the agreement is ratified. We hope that this agreement will deter those who are involved in criminal acts, be they in Pakistan or Egypt.

[Al-Tarabili] We have mentioned the fragmentation of the Soviet Union, the proliferation of nuclear weapons in various countries, and the quest by some countries in the region to acquire nuclear capability. I would like to ask you: Will Pakistan continue its nuclear program despite the objections raised by major states and, if so, what is you position regarding nuclear cooperation between India and China? Considering India's superiority in the nuclear field, does Pakistan's continuation of its nuclear program provide a guarantee for its survival?

[Bhutto] Each nation has a sovereign right to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program is designed to respond to its urgent energy needs and to gain other benefits relating to development and the use of nuclear technology for peaceful goals. Pakistan and the major powers to which you refer share the basic goal of ensuring the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia on a regional basis. But we insist that this goal be attained on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis. In the process of developing our nuclear program, we gained some technical capabilities. But we have made a rational political decision to use this capability solely for peaceful purposes, not for producing nuclear weapons. We want to ensure the disappearance of nuclear weapons from our region. We believe that the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia will enhance the region's stability and security. This is why we have submitted several proposals to India, which possesses confirmed nuclear capabilities and produces missiles that could carry such nuclear weapons. For the sake of stability and peace, our hope remains that India will constructively respond to our initiatives for establishing a fair and nondiscriminatory system for the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia. You mentioned China. China's policy regarding the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons in South Asia has always been in the interests of the goals I mentioned earlier. China supports the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons in South Asia.

[Al-Tarabili] Pakistan and India are two major states in Asia. The military conflict in the early seventies divided the Republic of Pakistan. Regardless of how it looks on the surface, the cultural struggle between the two powers, India and Pakistan, continues underneath. Does Pakistan see its role as more important with the change of political and military powers in Asia? What is Pakistan's role among the Asian Islamic states? Could a common Islamic market be set up among these states as a prelude to establishing a more comprehensive Islamic common market, especially now that Europe is united economically and another bloc has surfaced in northern America?

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[Bhutto] The fragmentation of the Soviet Union has led to the emergence of the Central Asian republics, with which Pakistan has solid and historic ties. Pakistan has established ties of cooperation in every field with the Central Asian republics, whether on the bilateral level or within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). Pakistan's geographical proximity to the Central Asian republics has considerably boosted Pakistan's political and geographical importance.

The Islamic world possesses huge economic resources. Regrettably, the Islamic countries have not utilized such resources fully. Accordingly, the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] embarked on creating a common market involving the Islamic countries. This goal must be implemented in stages. It is important that this process begin soon. We also hope that the preferential trade agreement among the Islamic countries will be implemented soon. Other steps must also be implemented, including export credit facilities, the Islamic clearing union, and the trade information network. The ICO member states in Ankara and Casablanca and the Islamic Development Bank are conducting studies to find a means to overcome the difficulties facing the Islamic countries and investigate the possibility of creating an Islamic common market.

We feel that the ongoing strenuous efforts can lead to the establishment of an Islamic common market. This would not only speed up the prosperity of the Islamic countries, but would also contribute toward promoting the other economic groups in Europe and America.

[Al-Tarabili] Egypt does not forget Pakistan's support during the [Arab] boycott following the signing of the Camp David Accords. Egypt and Pakistan can together play a leading role in the Islamic world to confront the new blocs. How can bilateral relations be promoted to achieve this goal?

[Bhutto] The relations between Pakistan and Egypt are historic and strong. We are pleased to see that the Egyptians are grateful for our support, which led to Egypt's return to the ICO in 1984. Egypt is an important member of the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement. Egypt is also playing a major role in Arab and African policies. We will seek Egypt's help with regard to all the problems facing the Islamic countries and the Third World. The Pakistani president has invited President Mubarak to visit Pakistan. We look forward to this visit, which is bound to strengthen our bilateral relations.

We also look forward to promoting cooperation with Egypt in the economic, trade, industrial, and technological spheres. We are making efforts to hold a session of the Pakistani-Egyptian joint ministerial committee soon.

[Al-Tarabili] Pakistan now leads a democratic life after Army rule. Are there guarantees that democracy and the people's rule will continue so that the era of military and constitutional coups will not recur?

[Bhutto] The people's commitment to democracy is the biggest guarantee. The people took part in three elections over the past five years. This demonstrates the people's strong faith in the democratic system as the best regime, complying with their needs and requirements. The Pakistani Armed Forces exploited no political dispute to impose military rule and this shows that they are committed to supporting the democratic system in our country.

During the 1993 election, our Armed Forces showed impartiality and played a remarkable role in helping the civilian authorities conduct free and impartial elections. I believe there will be no problems in this regard.

Bhutto Receives Iraqi Health Minister

JN0809155294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Islamabad, 8 Sep (INA)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has asked Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak to convey her warm greetings to President Saddam Husayn and her wishes for his excellency's continued health and happiness and further progress and prosperity for the relations between the two friendly countries.

This came when the Pakistani prime minister received the health minister yesterday.

During the meeting, the minister conveyed the greetings of his excellency the president to the Pakistani prime minister and wishes for the continued progress of the Pakistani people and advancement of the bilateral relations.

The Pakistani prime minister expressed her full sympathy with the suffering of the Iraqi people. She hoped that a settlement would soon be reached to ease the suffering of Iraq. The Pakistani prime minister also expressed her admiration for the reconstruction drive in light of what has been conveyed by the visitors to the holy shrines [in Iraq]. She stressed that this provides a living example of the Iraqis' capability and inventiveness.

At the end of the meeting, Mrs. Bhutto underscored the importance of bilateral relations and her country's eagerness to promote them in all areas.

The meeting was attended by the Iraqi ambassador to Pakistan.

The health minister is visiting Pakistan at the invitation of the Pakistani government. He is leading the Iraqi delegation to the extraordinary conference of the Islamic Conference Organization, which began its work on 7 September.

President Receives Iranian, Gambian Ministers

BK0809145994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] The foreign minister of Iran, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan

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Leghari in Islamabad today. He conveyed to the president warm greetings of President Rafsanjani and the Iranian leadership. Dr. Velayati said they are all awaiting President Leghari's visit to Iran. The president expressed his gratitude for the interest the Iranian leadership has always taken in Pakistan and Kashmir. The president said he hopes to see an enhancement of cooperation in various fields between the two countries during his forthcoming visit to Iran.

The foreign minister of Gambia, Mr. (Bolon Sonko), also called on the president today. He delivered to the president a message of good wishes from the Gambian head of state. President Leghari thanked the foreign minister for consistent support of Gambia on Kashmir.

Iranian Minister on Kashmir

BK0909091294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0800 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has reiterated his country's offer to facilitate a dialogue between Pakistan and India for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said a peaceful resolution of the problem is not only in the interest of India and Pakistan but the region and the Islamic world.

To a question about Indian response to Iranian offer of mediation, he said it was not negative. The Iranian foreign minister vehemently denied any shift in Iranian foreign policy toward Pakistan and said it is the same as it was from the very beginning since the Iranian revolution. He said the two countries have made a lot of progress to further improve friendship and cooperation and this process will continue.

Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati said President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari will be in Iran from tomorrow. President Leghari and the Iranian leaders will discuss the motion of economic relations. The two countries are very frequently exchanging delegations at different levels and are determined to further strengthen their relations.

About Afghanistan, the Iranian foreign minister said both Iran and Pakistan are ready to host talks among Afghan leaders. The two countries support efforts of the UN and the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] for peace, but even if these efforts are given up they would continue their endeavors because peace in Afghanistan in vital for their security.

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